



The flow  
of art

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Milano style  
in China

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## Flamenco fires up stage

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*Christina Hoyos, a top Flamenco dancer, brought her moves to the city. She hopes her passion and love for the dance will spark Chinese interest in Spanish culture.*

Photo provided by Poly Theater

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Stricter rules  
for foreigners'  
transplants

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Olympic equestrian  
hopeful ready  
to gallop



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Grads fired by  
Fortune 500  
before first day





# Gov tightens regulations for foreign transplant recipients

By Jiang Xubo

Foreigners coming to China looking for organ transplants might find the task a bit more difficult now due to new guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health (MH) Tuesday which granted priority to domestic patients.

The guidelines posted on the ministry's website required priority be given to domestic patients, including patients with permanent residency in the Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions and Taiwan Province.

## Olympic sand arrives here for volleyball

By Chu Meng

The first batch of sand for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Beach Volleyball competition has arrived at the under-construction Olympic Beach Volleyball site in Beijing's Chaoyang Park.

The sand was approved by the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) yesterday in the park.

The idea of "Olympic sand" is curious for locals. When the sand was being unloaded at the site, everyone watched as the first batch of 1,000 tons was carried in by 52 trucks. It appeared white from a distance, but on closer look there were yellow granules too. "It feels good, very thin and clean – not sticky – and it runs quickly through your fingers," a passer-by said after feeling the sand.

It is the first batch of the total 17,000 tons to arrive at the park. "Each shipment will spend 12 days aboard a freight from the south China island of Hainan to the Port of Tianjin and then be trucked to Beijing. The shipments are expected to be completed by mid-July," Guo Shaoxian, head engineer of the Beijing Chaoyang Park Development Company, which is building the venue, said.

The sand from Dongfang City, Hainan, was carefully selected by the organizing committee of the Games after considering several options. China collected samples of sand from three cities, and sent them to the official FIVB Examination Laboratory Center in Canada for testing. After a strict examination, the sand sample from Dongfang city beat the others, and earned approval as "Olympic sand."

"Olympic sand," which must conform to a set shape, size and color, usually comes from Finland, Sweden and Denmark, but the price would be three times that of domestic sand. "Collected from local mines, the sand must undergo processing, including selection, washing and polishing," Guo said.

"But whether or not this sand will be adopted in the Games, it has to be approved by the athletes," Guo said. An important women's event, FIVB Challenger, will be played on the competition site of Chaoyang Park in August to solicit athletes' opinions on the sand.

Hospitals that plan to perform transplants on foreigners must apply to their provincial health departments, which in turn must seek approvals from the MH, according to the new rules.

It also includes a ban on transplants for foreigners who entered China for "medical tourism." In addition, transplant service providers are forbidden to leave the country under the guise of tourism and perform the operation for foreigners.

Doctors or hospitals caught performing unauthorized transplants

will be stripped of their licenses.

Only 160 out of some 600 hospitals and clinics across the country that offered transplant services obtained MH licenses for the operations. MH officials granted the country's first approvals in April.

Regulations, which were issued by the State Council this March and went into effect in May, made it illegal to harvest human organs without permission. The rules also included a ban on the human organs trade and on donations by people under 18.

About 1.5 million people need

transplants each year nationwide, but only 10,000 can get organs due to a gap in supply, a MH spokesman said.

The World Health Organization's (WHO) reports on 'transplant tourism' or people from developed countries seeking transplants outside their borders, show that it accounts for ten percent of all transplant procedures.

The WHO's guidelines for global organ transplant issued this March also called for stricter control on "transplant tourism," which has been on rise since the 1990s.

## Gov makes film on Olympic journey

By He Jianwei

The government is producing a documentary to record Beijing's seven-year journey to prepare for the 2008 Olympic Games, which will be released to worldwide audiences in July 2008, an official announced Wednesday at the press conference.

"The documentary film, tentatively named '2001+7,' is the first documentary film in the history of Olympic Games to record the preparation process," Wang Hui, the deputy director of Media and Communications Department of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG), said.

The documentary was filmed by the Central News Documentary Films Production Company (CNDF), the nation's most famous and authoritative documentary maker, boasting a combined film footage of 420,000 minutes. "We estimate it will take an investment of 4 million yuan (US\$530,000) to put it together," Guo Benmin, deputy director of the CNDF, said.

"The film tells what preparations went into making Beijing ready for next year's Summer Olympics and the progress in Beijing's urban development and management from July 13, 2001 when we won the bid, to the time of the Games," Wang said.

The crew began their seven-year production to document Beijing's preparations for the construction of the Olympic venues, the preparations of the Chinese athletes and the volunteer activities and security guards, Gu Jun, director of the film, said.

"So far we have accumulated 50,000 meters of film as the result of 50 creators and 30 cameramen in cooperation with some 60 organizations," Gu said.

"The film contains seven key points: hard work, dedication, determination, confidence, understanding, dreams and harmony," Gao Feng, director of CNDF said.

He also explained the meaning of the number seven, saying it "indicates the time – seven years – that our crew has dedicated to a film. There are seven days in a week; there are seven musical scales in Western civilization; seven strings in the ancient Chinese musical instrument Guqin; seven colors in the rainbow, so that the number seven symbolizes the exchange of East and West, and the harmony of nature."

## Kites fly for Games



People from 56 ethnic nationalities are playing kites at the Chinese Ethnic Culture Park for the 400-day count down ceremony of 2008 Olympics.

CFP Photo

## Beijing tap water now safe to drink direct

By Chu Meng

Beijing has become the first city in China to meet a tougher national standards for drinking water. The tap water in the capital passed all 106 tests for contaminants as required by new national standards that took effect this Monday, authorities from the Beijing Municipal Water Co (BMWC) said.

"Beijing met the standards at the end of last year," Yu Yaping, an official with BMWC, said. "As industry insiders, we received the standards a long time ago. We immediately took action to improve the drinking water quality," Yu said.

Fan Kangping, director of the

water quality center of Beijing Waterworks Group, said the city's water had been drinkable since 2003. "The Ministry of Construction, as one of our administrative authorities, issued water quality regulations consisting of 101 standards many years ago," Fan said.

However, complaints were received about the metallic taste of the water and its unpleasant smell in the southern part of the city. Other citizens complained about solid, white deposits visible in water pots after boiling tap water. "That is a result of secondary pollution," Yu said, "Old tap water pipes are responsible for the bad taste."

It is estimated that 7,000 kilometers of underground pipes transport water to the capital's 16 million residents. Some pipes were laid 50 to 60 years ago, according to sources close to BMWC. "We have a dilemma. The water we pipe out is clean and safe, but it ends up contaminated before it ever reaches its users," Fan said.

He said that over the past five years, the BMWC has changed all of the old tap water pipes and established 270 inspection points among urban residential areas. "To meet the standard, tap water at its destination still has to meet the national standard," he said.

## 'One-stop' service station for Olympic media

By Zhao Hongyi

The Beijing 2008 Olympic Organizing Committee began offering "one-stop" service to the foreign reporters covering the Olympics this week. The "one-stop" service facility assists foreign media members with visa and driving license applications, interview arrangements and accommodations.

The service center is stationed in the Beijing Olympic Media Center and provides access to 29 government agencies and depart-

ments' services, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Information.

The State General Administration of Sports desk will help foreign reporters to arrange interviews with Chinese athletes and coaches; the Bank of China desk will help reporters to open bank accounts and exchange currency; the Public Security Bureau of the Beijing Municipal Government desk issues foreign journalists temporary driving licenses

that are valid for three months and temporary license plates for their vehicles.

The General Administration of Customs desk answers questions about customs procedures for bringing equipment to China.

Cai Fuchao, the municipal head for publicity, said at the opening of the center earlier this week that the need to reduce paperwork, which has long complicated the process between filing an application and getting approval.



# Grads fired by Fortune 500 before their first day at work

By Fu Ting

Lai Nanjin, a new graduate majoring in electronic information engineering at Jilin University, never expected to receive a pink-slip on registration day.

Last November, he signed an employment contract with Flex R&D (Shenzhen) Co Ltd, a subsidiary company of Flextronics, for a position as electronic engineer. However, June 29, the day before his first day of work, he was told that the company had canceled the contract due to "lack of positions after structural shifting."

Lai was not alone, 34 other graduates from other universities lost their jobs in Flex R&D without a single day of work.

The company's Singapore head-

quarters released a statement Wednesday, claiming they already offered alternate positions to the graduates, but failed to specify any compensation package.

The company offered 2,000 yuan as compensation for breaking the contract early last month, together with a monthly allowance of 500 yuan per month from July to September. All students refused the offer. The company later promised the students an additional three months' salary - 3,100 yuan per month for bachelor's degree holders and 4,700 for master's.

"It's not only a matter of money," Lai said, "The season for job hunting is over, and won't begin for another year. The university has already mailed out our records.

They are on the way to Shenzhen, and if the company refuses to accept them, I don't know what we can do! The most outrageous part is that no one told us anything about this 'structural change' until the last minute," he said.

"We deeply regret what happened to these very talented students, and we are not free from blame for notifying them too late," Chen Yingjie, HR director of Flex R&D, said. She promised the company it would contact the personnel department of the municipal governments and the students' universities to solve the records problem.

Last November, Flex R&D held several job fairs at universities across the country and attracted many students by their name alone.

"The competition was fierce. At our university, over a thousand students had submitted their resumes, and only six of us made it after rounds and rounds of tests and interviews," Hu Jing, a Wuhan Polytechnics University graduate, said.

"It seemed very promising, they said work was done completely in English, and the company would send us abroad for training, but now, everything is changed. I feel cheated," Liu Hongyin, a student who accepted Flex R&D's offer instead of continuing his studies at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, said.

Flextronics is a multinational company featured in electronics manufacturing services, which was on the Fortune 500 list.

## Airport battles mice after pigeons

By Zhao Hongyi

Beijing Capital International Airport declared war on its unwanted four-legged guests in its latest effort to secure flights after a campaign against thousands of birds and pigeons earlier this year.

Mice are commonly seen around airports. Many reports have said that little mice have entered airplanes, snapped off wires and harassed passengers in airports around the world.

Though Capital Airport has never encountered such a case, they are now focusing on mice along with threats from the sky: large birds, pigeons and kites, a kind of bird.

"A lot of birds have found it easy to hunt mice at the airport, and the number has increased in recent years," Huang said. "To drive off the large birds, we find it imperative to cut the number of mice on the ground."

Over the past five years, the airport has spent as much as 100,000 yuan annually in combating against the many mouse on its grounds - both in the airport and surrounding fields.

Summer is the breeding time of mice, and this year, the situation is more serious, Huang said.

So far, the airport has exterminated 2,000 mice.

Earlier reports say flocks of pigeons, birds and kites in particular, are thronging the airport, crashing into planes and threatening public safety.

## Bomb threat a bust for local otaku

By Jackie Zhang

A 20-year-old man stood trial at a local court this week for staging a bomb threat and demanding for his favorite anime, or Japanese cartoons. The court has not reached a verdict yet.

Xu Xin (pseudonym), a college student, put a homemade "bomb" and a threatening letter on a shelf in the Beijing Book Building last April, causing public panic.

The "bomb" proved to be made with only water and edible oil. The man threatened he would bomb the Batong subway line if the bookstore refused to remove all Chinese cartoons from its shelves within one and a half months. Xu was apprehended in November when a classmate informed the authorities.

"The bomb was actually fake, and couldn't do any damage. I just wanted to attract the government's attention and stop them from discriminating against anime. I want to watch my favorite shows," Xu Xin said, as he answered the judge's questions in a low voice.

Xu's mother said that Xu clearly likes Japanese anime a lot. Before Xu's case took place, he read a news report that airing foreign cartoons would be banned between the hours of 5 and 8pm.

"He became furious and hurled the newspaper to the floor. I think that's what drove him to stage the threat," his mother said.

Xu's parents divorced when he was a child. "He lived with his grandmother during childhood, and came to live with me when he felt isolated. I should be responsible for this, because I never talked to him enough," Xu's mother said.

"Xu is a timid boy. He even asked permission to leave the classroom since he intended to place the 'bomb' during school hours," she said.

The government's ban on air-foreign cartoons airing during prime viewing hours came into effect last September.

## A taste of Carnival



Liberian and Brazilian dancers perform at the Happy Valley Maya Carnival, which started Wednesday and ends on August 26 in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province.

CFP Photo

## First comfort women report issued

By Han Manman

A group of Chinese researchers probing into "comfort women" has issued their first report: the practice continued until 1947.

The report, released Tuesday by the All China Lawyers Association and China Legal Aid Foundation, comes as Japan faces increased pressure from China and US to apologize for sending women to work during wartime as "comfort women" - a euphemism for sex slaves.

The commission said they located 17 survivors who were forced to work as "comfort women" including one who was only 12 at the time. Fourteen were under the age of 18 when they "suffered repeated sexual violence," the report said.

The commission focused their investigation on five counties in

Shanxi Province, two counties in Hainan Province and six counties in Yunnan Province from September 2006 to March 2007.

Kang Jian, a lawyer engaged in this investigation, said "This is the first systematic investigation on Chinese 'comfort women' and more reports from this investigation will be released." He further promised a "larger-scale investigation" would take place in the future.

After World War II, a few Japanese forces were grouped into the local Kuomintang Army. One of the groups, called "the sixth security guards unit," released a notice in Japanese saying they had one "comfort house" set in Taiyuan, the capital of Shanxi Province, which proved the "comfort women" system continued till 1947, according to the report.

On June 28, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang urged the Japanese government to seriously and properly resolve the issues of "comfort women" and forced Chinese laborers during World War II.

Qin made the comments in response to a motion passed by a US House panel on June 26, urging Japan to acknowledge formally and accept responsibility for the sexual exploitation of "comfort women" by the Japanese military during World War II.

An estimated 200,000 women were forced to serve as sex slaves for Japanese forces during World War II. Chinese experts say less than 50 former Chinese sex slaves are still alive, although few have gone public with their experiences.

## Brief news

### 265,000 digital monitors

The number of video monitors in the capital's public areas, including streets, plazas, shopping malls and residential communities, has climbed to 265,000, Chu Jing, a spokesman for the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau, said this week.

### Safe water for rural residents

Some 30 million rural residents in the country obtained access to safe drinking water last year, bring the total number to 559 million, a spokesman for the Ministry of Water Resources announced this week.

### 81 percent products safe

A survey with an emphasis on products including food showed that 81 percent of products made in the country in the first half of this year for domestic consumption were up to quality and safety standards, a spokesman for the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine said this week.

### Fewer dead in mining accidents

The number of coal mine accidents across the country in the first half of this year totaled 1,066, as many as 240 less than that of the same period last year. The death toll dropped by 1,800 people, down 14 percent according to figures released by the State Administration of Coal Mine Safety and the State Administration of Work Safety.

(By Jiang Xubo)



# Hobbles and hurdles

## Teen prodigy saddles up for China's equestrian team

By Huang Daohen

To be a world-class athlete, you need ambition, talent and a little luck. Alex Hua Tian, 18, a China-born, UK-raised potential Chinese rider for the 2008 Olympics, has all three as he sets his sights on gold in equestrian.

However, Hua can't do it alone. He also needs his horse to come through to fulfill his Olympic dream. An anonymous horse owner from Hong Kong has confirmed that he will give Hua his full support by buying the horse, Hua Shan, Alex's father, said. The senior Hua said he was not prepared to reveal details as he was currently in London, but a news conference concerning the horse owner will take place this month in Beijing.

### The Hua Tian Phenomenon

Recently, images of Hua, an Eton schoolboy, on horseback have graced the front pages of many Chinese newspapers. The teen is the first Chinese rider registered by the International Equestrian Federation and is also the nation's first rider to compete in an international equestrian competition.

Hua aims to represent his country at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, and in doing so will not only be one of the youngest riders ever to compete in a Summer Games, but also the first person of Chinese heritage to do so.

As the host country of the Olympics, China is given six berths in equestrian, four in jumping, one in dressage and one in eventing. All Chinese riders have to do is qualify.

"As long as Alex has the right horse, he is closer to qualifying for the Olympics than anyone else," Clayton Fredericks, 2005 World Cup champion, and also Hua's coach, said.

However, at 15, Hua's horse is too old for the Olympics. According to Olympic rules, the owner must have the same nationality as the rider.

An Olympic eventing horse costs anywhere between 1.5 million yuan and 4.5 million yuan, and an event rider needs four to six horses to prepare for the Games. In China, where the average income is US\$1,740 per annum, that's a princely sum.

### Seeking support

A nationwide campaign to find a horse owner for the Olympic hopeful got under way due to media exposure earlier this year. A number of residents have shown their willingness to offer financial support to the young horserider.

A letter published on a Chinese equestrian website has called for public donations. Organizers said they would give the money to Hua through the Chinese Equestrian Association, adding that after the Games a foundation would be set up to promote the sport in China.

Most of all, Hua has strong support from his family. His mother was born into a tradi-



Alex Hua Tian at the Hartpury International Three Day Event

Photo by Ma Zhengzheng



The Queen congratulates Hua Tian on winning the Queen's Plate.

Photo provided by pleasureprints.co.uk



Hua Tian, as nine-year-old rider, at Beas River, Hong Kong in his first competition

Photo by Yonanda Doormalen

tional British family and is a gifted horserider herself. His Chinese father, Hua Shan, works in the aviation industry, and his grandfather Hua Longyi was one of China's first air force heroes.

They are now working on a media campaign to find sponsors for their son, taking interviews and running a website dedicated to this end. Not including the ready to be named Hong Kong horse owner, the family has already received over two million yuan, including an anonymous donation of 1.5 million yuan from a businessman in Guangdong Province.

### Dropping his UK citizenship

Hua spent his childhood in Hong Kong. He started riding in the local Jockey Club at the age of five, then joined Hong Kong Pony Club, actively competing at the Hong Kong Pony Club and the Hong Kong Equestrian Association.

A chance connection through his mother then enabled the 10 year-old Alex to visit Rosegarth in Wiltshire, England, home to leading international event riders, Lucinda and Clayton Fredericks.

"With his legs barely reaching below the saddles, Alex showed such a natural flair that he was able to ride the horses that would later go on to win medals at the World Championships level," say the Fredericks on their website, recalling the couple's first encounter with Hua.

Trained for years under the Fredericks, a couple with multiple European champions between them, Hua has been known for his age-belying performance in eventing – one of three equestrian disciplines at the Olympics that is often described as being much more demanding than either jumping or dressage.

Last year saw a new milestone for Hua. He won the Queens Cup at the Royal Windsor equestrian tournament and in the process defeated the grand daughter of Queen Elizabeth II on two occasions. Queen Elizabeth II personally awarded him at the following award ceremony by making an exception for the event.

As a British-Chinese for over a decade, Hua relinquished his British citizenship in April so that he could represent his motherland in the Olympics.

### Challenges

Hua has recently stopped going to school and now lives with his

mother in London, as he prepares for the Olympics that is almost a year away.

"I will be very, very proud if I can represent China," Hua said. "I will put everything on the line to be in the Beijing Olympic Games."

Hua attended a challenging three-star course, also the Olympic qualification event, held in Chatsworth, UK, in May, but failed to get a much-needed qualifying result.

However, the most challenge standing in front of Hua is still the horse – finding a suitable partner and working together. "The Beijing 2008 Olympics is a big challenge for any rider, never mind one so young, but I think he has got the skill and nerve to get there," Edwin McAuley, vice president of the Hong Kong Equestrian Federation, said, adding "What he needs urgently is to find a suitable horse for him so that he can compete next year and obtain his certificate."

### Profile: Alex Hua Tian



Date of birth:

25/10/89

Nationality:

Chinese

Education:

Taking A/S levels at Eton College.

School has agreed to a one-year sabbatical for 2007/8.

**Horses:** "Monkey King" Chance Bid, former Hong Kong racehorse now 15 years old; "Buddy" Koyuno Sun-Glo, former Adelaide 4-star winner, now 14 years old.

**Previous performance:** A qualifying round requires over 50 percent good marks for dressage, no more than 16 penalties in showjumping and no more than 20 jumping penalties over cross-country.



# SEPA punishes cities and factories for river pollution

Beijing (Reuters) – China's top environmental watchdog has punished several cities and over 30 factories for chronic river pollution, accusing growth-obsessed local governments of worsening degradation to an "unbearable" extent.

Six cities, two counties and five industrial parks were named and shamed by the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA) this week for their role in polluting four major rivers, including China's longest two, the Yangtze and the Yellow River.

SEPA would not approve any projects proposed by the accused polluters for three months other than treatment plants and "recycling" facilities, the agency said in a statement on its website.

## Expert comment

"The country needs to set up a trans-regional and trans-departmental governing system for better regulations on rivers, which separate regions and departments were unable to do because they failed to make a joint force in their efforts," Pan Yue, SEPA's deputy chief, said.

"Campaigns like this cannot solve environment problems if proper practices are not fixed in laws and regulations. The foremost thing about the country's environmental issue is not technology or funds, but a change in regulation," Pan said.

He said the country needs to

adjust the mechanism to evaluate government officials. "It is impossible to prevent officials from giving approvals to industrial projects like coal, chemical and steel production. When faced with the temptation of instant political achievement, public health ends up as an afterthought," he said. The lack of punishment for these officials only encourages more to follow in their stead, he said. "There should be such policy that no matter where the officials go, they have to claim responsibility to what they do to local environment."

In addition, we need to amend the laws for environmental protection and grant greater authority to environmental watchdog to ensure harsher punishments for these offenders, he said, calling for a better river protection.

"And a trans-regional and trans-departmental governing system could take the valley catchment area as a whole and rearrange the industrial layout and structure within the region, with the environment's capacity taken into account," Pan said.

(By Jiang Xubo)

## City gov tests partial car ban before Games

Beijing (AP) – Officials will try to take a third of the cars off Beijing's badly-congested streets next month to test a proposed plan for reducing traffic and smog during the 2008 Olympics.

Fan Yinlong, an official with the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games, said Wednesday that the city will cut traffic by about a million vehicles for two weeks in August. The period roughly coincides with the dates for the 2008 Games – August 8 to 24.

During the same period, the city will host dozens of Olympic test events.

The International Olympic Committee said earlier this week that BOCOG has informed it of the traffic plan, but few details have been released. The congestion and Beijing's notoriously polluted air have been a main concern of the IOC and 10,500 athletes expected for the Games.

A similar effort to clear the capital's clogged roads was made last year, when one million vehicles – a combination of private and publicly owned – were kept off the roads.

## Longest road for summer Games opens

Beijing (hindustantimes.com) – The longest highway designed for 2008 Beijing Olympics, which links the Olympic Village and the Olympic Water Park in the east suburban area, opened Monday.

Baima Road, about 20 kilometers long and with a speed limit of 60 kilometers per hour, will serve as a major artery in the Chinese capital that provides convenient and fast access to the Olympic venues in Shunyi District.

Zhou Zhengyu, deputy director of Beijing Traffic Management Commission, said it would take 30 minutes for athletes from the Olympic Village in northern Beijing to reach the Water Park by car.

He also said an exclusive lane would be reserved on the highway for Olympic vehicles.

## Crackdown on officials with mistresses

Beijing (iol.co.za) – China plans to fire officials found to have "kept and supported" mistresses as part of a move targeting social morals, Xinhua reported on Friday.

The step is designed to strengthen previous policy.

"It is a mistake to think that officials with mistresses will only be sacked when the situation is serious," the Beijing News quoted a ministry of personnel spokesman as saying.

Mistresses and "second wives" are common among government officials and businessmen in China, and Chinese media has said financial pressures of keeping mistresses have driven some officials to seek money through bribes or abuse of power.

## Reading Confucius out loud



Over 20 students from Colorado State University, US, visited the Temple of Confucius in Zhengzhou, Henan Province, yesterday, reading aloud Analects by Confucius in English.

CFP Photo

## Two domestic sites added to United Nation's World Heritage list

Hong Kong (Reuters) – A clutch of idyllic Chinese villages with strikingly Western-style buildings embodying the roots of the Chinese diaspora over a century ago was named as a United Nations World Heritage site on last Thursday.

Lying in a quiet corner of southern China, to the west of the Pearl River Delta, Kaiping's bucolic countryside is sprinkled with hundreds of rural Qiaoxian, or overseas Chinese villages, which, along with several neighboring counties, gave rise to much of the Chinese diaspora in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Paris (AFP) – UNESCO has placed the South China Karst on its list of world heritage sites on last Wednesday.

The China Karst is a 600,000 square kilometer region in Yunnan, Guizhou and Guangxi Provinces.

## Expert comment

The aim in applying for World Heritage status should be to seek better protection for the sites by introducing international cooperation, Xie Ninggao, director of the World Heritage Research Center at the School of Environmental Science, Beijing University, said.

World Heritage sites should not be viewed as cash cows, and it is important to achieve a balance between protecting and exploring world heritage.

"World heritages are not only for the tourism and catering industries," Xie

said, "They are valuable both in cultural and environmental aspects. When one site is listed as a World Heritage site, it is guaranteed to draw more visitors. Local government may think it is better to attract more sightseers, but actually, sites can be permanently damaged if the influx of tourists gets out of control. Yet, international treaties require us to fulfill our commitment to preserve them for future generations," Xie said.

The central government's unified administration is necessary to insure effective pro-

tection of the sites. Currently, the Ministry of Construction is in charge of the historic and scenic sites across the country, but actually, local government takes the administrative role in heritage protection, which results in a lack of unified administration from the central government.

"The national government should set up a department to take charge of the administration of heritage sites across the country. After that, the country should make laws to ensure heritage protection," Xie said.

(By Jiang Xubo)



# Chrysler and Chery sign 25-year agreement

Beijing (AFP) – US auto giant Chrysler on Wednesday finalized a 25-year deal with Chery Motor, one of China's biggest carmakers, that aims to see Chinese-made vehicles grab their first major chunk of world markets.

The deal will see small cars made in China exported to the US and other markets under the American brand.

The two firms would initially

make less than 100,000 vehicles together. The first cars will use its landmark Dodge brand after modifications for tougher international safety requirements.

The deal is expected to see cars exported to South America and eastern Europe within 12 months, while sales in the US would hopefully begin in two years.

Chery chairman Ying Tongyao told reporters at the signing that

the deal provided the company a protected entry into fiercely competitive international markets.

"Currently we don't have enough resources to build a sales network. We are not familiar with the operation and legal system in those markets either."

"We hope we can avoid repeating the mistakes other Asian auto producers made previously [when entering the US market]."

Chrysler president and CEO Tom LaSorda said the deal would give his ailing firm a quick boost.

Chery sold 305,200 vehicles last year and has set an ambitious target of 500,000 for this year, Xinhua reported Wednesday.

Chery already exports its own branded vehicles to roughly 20 countries, mostly in Southeast Asia, Africa and the Middle East, where price is a critical sales point.

## Clash over Chinese-run Ecuadorian oilfield ends

By Jiang Xubo

Production in a Chinese-run oilfield resumed this week after a conflict with local residents was quelled by Ecuador's military last weekend, Xinhua reported.

Some 100 local residents cut trees and blocked passage to an oilfield in Amazonia Region, Ecuador, which belongs to Andes Petroleum Company (APC), a Chinese-run venture. The crowd damaged some facilities, which put a halt to the field's production. No members of the company's Chinese staff were injured.

The Ecuadorian government sent a military team of 300 people to disperse the mob and protect the company's staff: as many as 20 officers were hurt during the clash.

"The Chinese government is highly concerned, and our embassy is maintaining close contact with the local government," Qin Gang, spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said during a Tuesday press conference in Beijing.

Ecuador's government promised that the country would conduct a thorough investigation into the case and bring the offenders into justice. It also promised to protect Chinese investors' interests.

APC is a consortium that is jointly owned by the China National Petroleum Corporation and the China Petrochemical Corporation (Sinopec Group). It acquired the assets held in Ecuador by Canadian company EnCana Corporation last February, and became Ecuador's largest foreign enterprise.



## Malaysia truly Asia

*The Tourism Malaysia booth at the 2007 China Incentive, Business Travel and Meetings Exhibition in Beijing.*

*The expo opened this week in Beijing and has attracted 250 exhibitors from across the globe, indicating the increasingly importance of China as a tourism country.*

*The expo closes today.*

Xinhua Photo

## Businessman purchases German airport

By Jackie Zhang

Pang Yuliang, board chairman of LinkGlobal Logistics Co Ltd, purchased Schwerin-Parchim Airport, the *Beijing Times* reported.

Pang finished all the procedures yesterday, but Zhang Xuechen, spokesman of LinkGlobal, denied that the company had released any news and refused to comment on details of the purchase.

Seeking to confirm the news, *Beijing Today* reporters repeatedly contacted Hermann Ertl, managing director of Schwerin-Parchim Airport. But Ertl did not answer any calls.

On May 23, LinkGlobal, together with representatives from the City of Schwerin, announced that LinkGlobal won the bid and would purchase 100 percent of the property rights, equipment of Parchim Airport and permanent possession of its affiliated economic cooperative zones.

Pang said during a May press conference that Chinese aviation and transportation enterprises will be able to use Parchim Airport as a transfer center in Europe and aviation base after his purchase; the airport will offer direct flights between Parchim Airport and Xingzheng International Airport in Zhengzhou, Henan Province.

Parchim Airport was built in 1934. Before 1989, it was used as military airport by the German army and became a Russian military airport from 1989 to 1993. At the end of last year, Parchim Airport opened to public bidding for partners in the airport's construction, management and operation.

## Air France, KLM, China Southern plan joint cargo venture

Beijing (AFP) – Air France, KLM and China Southern Airlines agreed to have exclusive discussion over a cargo joint venture in China, according to Air France-KLM Group.

Air France-KLM Group and China Southern Airlines already have extensive cooperation in both passenger and cargo services.

Further details of the joint venture will be announced later after the discussions.

In 2006, China Southern Airlines carried 49.21 million passengers and was the only airline in China to rank the world's top ten passenger carrying airlines.

## Silicon Valley open venture capital office in Beijing

San Francisco (FT.com) – Kleiner Perkins Caufield and Byers, one of the blue-bloods of the US venture capital business, has taken the first step beyond its Silicon Valley roots by opening an office in Beijing and raising US\$360 million to invest in technology start-ups in China.

Kleiner's move represents a watershed for the Valley's famously insular private financing community. Based on close personal relationships and local connections, Valley firms have hesitated before turning overseas, in spite of their dominance of the overall US and global venture capital markets.

## Beijing freezes ethanol plans

Beijing (Reuters) – China's state-owned grain group COFCO said Beijing has stopped approving new fuel ethanol projects regardless of the raw materials, which has put a brake on its plan to build a sweet potato-based plant in Hebei.

PetroChina was also conducting a feasibility study for a sweet potato-based ethanol plant in southwest Sichuan province.

Alarmed by high grain prices, which also helped raise pork prices, Beijing has already introduced a series of measures to curb the fuel ethanol processing industries.

## Int'l glass fair opens in China WTC

By Han Manman

The 2007 China International Glassware and Glass-craft Products Fair will begin Sunday in the exhibition hall of the China World Trade Center to show popular daily-use utensils and new designs of artistic ware from China and abroad.

According to China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Light Industrial Products and Arts-crafts, the opening ceremony will start with a "Grand Glass Work" live presentation. Activities including an international glass design contest and Czech contemporary glass design will also be held during the fair. The fair will end next Tuesday.

## Officials promote Hainan bananas in Beijing

By Zhao Hongyi

Officials from the Ministry of Agriculture promoted the bananas from Hainan by eating the "fantastic" bananas in front of the cameras in Beijing this week.

The purpose, according to local media reports, is to persuade consumers that the rumors of poisonous bananas from Hainan are groundless.

From April of this year, rumors said Hainan bananas were poisonous because they are carrying the SARS virus and viruses that can lead to various types of cancer. The rumor spread rapidly by short messages and emails.

The result has been disastrous. The price of Hainan bananas dropped from a wholesale one yuan per kilograms to 0.2 yuan.

Total loss from the rumors reached 822 million yuan, covering one million banana farmers.

In Hainan, farmers ended up having to discard fresh bananas to pigs.

After introducing new seed, Hainan bananas began improving in quality and taste in recent years, marginalizing the market share of imports.

"It is quite possible that banana importers sent the messages," Zhang Xiyan, secretary-general of Hainan Banana Association, said.

Others believe retailers were also involved as they expected lower prices.

Zhang and his colleagues have filed a case to the police, hoping to discover and dismantle the groundless source of the rumors.



# Stars linked with bad products

By Huang Daohu

Actor, Ge You, has returned all the money 300,000 yuan to the representatives of the Li Lin Forestation Group, the Beijing Procuratorate confirmed on Wednesday.

Ge had been implicated in the Yi Lin Forestation case, the biggest-ever illegal pyramid scheme involving a total figure of 1.6 billion yuan in February. He was the spokesperson for a forestation company.

The famed entertainer once admitted to the media to having bought 0.6 hectares of woodland through the company. Yi Lin Forestation themselves revised that figure to 33 hectares.

Meanwhile, his claim of having been a victim of illegal sales, has not received much sympathy from the public.

As one of the most popular comedic actors on the mainland, Ge had always been very careful in becoming the spokesperson for any commercial enterprises,

usually preferring to attach his name to clothing, dairy and telecom products.

The issue has not affected his contracts with other companies and he has maintained his silence amid the protestations of victims and questioning from the media.

Ge is not the first – and definitely not the last – celebrity that has or will be involved in false advertising.

Last year, performer Guo Degang was involved in a scandal when a weight-loss tea he promoted in an advertisement was found to be ineffective, with ingredients not being what was advertised.

The fact that popular entertainers are paid a lot of money for promoting questionable products has sparked heated debate among the public.

In China, there is currently no regulation regarding big name stars becoming spokespersons for their products.



Guo Degang, a famous cross-talk performer, was involved in a scandal involving a weight-loss tea ad.

## Comment

### Follow the law

It goes without saying that the manufacturer is using his celebrity and the entertainer is using the company to make money at the expense of the public. Popular figures have every right to use their popularity as a financial resource, but they should not be above the law if they knowingly engage in dishonest advertising.

— Joseph Wong

### Law needed

The point is that we do not yet have a law that holds celebrities or anyone appearing in an ad responsible for promoting problematic products.

— judy

### Ethical bottom line

This is their ethical bottom line. It is a great leap forward from those that would do anything for a buck, let alone a celebrity. It was the psychological damage rather than monetary loss that gave the fans grief.

— Taylor

### Plug the legal loophole

It may be difficult to determine how knowledgeable celebrities are of the products they promote. But the loopholes in our legal code should be plugged. Famous people should not be exempt from legal penalties for identifying themselves with a product marketed with false or

misleading claims.

— Jade

### Watchdog's responsibility

Why the state drug and food administration authorized this product for sale in one year is beyond me. They should be responsible for this and are shirking the responsibility?

— CLB

### Both are responsible

Both sides have their own responsibilities – they're both to blame. The celebrity should pay attention to his own reputation, and the relevant authorities should pay more attention to the consumer's right.

— Jessy



Ge You says he is also a victim of the Yi Lin scandal. CFP Photos

# Student gets zero for revolting

By Jackie Zhang

Chen Shengzhang, a 19-year-old middle school graduate in Liuyang, Hunan Province, expressed his dissatisfaction and resistance to the college entrance exams, and the current education system in China by getting a zero in all of the four exam subjects last month.

Chen is a sports student. In April, he was injured during practice, which made it impossible for him to go to university as an athlete. Instead, he went back home.

"There have been many thoughts in my mind. This injury is the last straw for me after getting zero marks," Chen said.

Chen is not the first case of getting no marks in the exam. Jiang Duoduo, a girl from Nanyang, Henan Province, got a score of zero because she deliberately violated the rules by using colorful pens for her answers. Her reason for doing so was the same as Chen's – dissatisfaction and resistance to the education system.

"I always wonder whether the entrance exam can help pick up

real talents; whether it is useful to improve a person's comprehensive ability; whether it can help us broaden our views and be creative people. I am wondering that whether the exam can help solve the problems existing in schools here," Chen said.

He also said he felt sorry and pressed when he saw the amount of books on his fellow students' desks. He even heard that some universities awarded students that attended every class for a week with a 20 yuan incentive.

"These are all the reasons why I decided to get a zero. My family promised to provide me money for university no matter what scores I got on the test, but there is a difference between getting zero and getting a few scores by answering questions unceremoniously.

"Although zero means my future is destroyed and I may become a topic of discussion, I feel I am stronger and braver than these who possess wealth and power but never think about the average person," Chen said.



Every year, June 7 and 8 are the fixed dates for the entrance exam.

CFP Photo

## Comment

### One person cannot change reality

I think few students like taking exams. We are forced to accept it and nobody can change the situation. I hate the entrance exam as well because it is unfair. I agree with Chen's opinion, however, the way he has done it has destroyed him. I support his thinking, but I think he should think about himself more. Reality cannot be changed.

— Wang Yu, student

### Chance to become famous

He is a sports student and usually sports students do not do very well academically. He had to quit school because of injury, even if he does take the entrance exam, he still won't do well.

I'll admit that some of his opinions are reasonable to some extent, but it does not mean that it is right for him to do what he did. I think it is more of an opportunity to become well known, rather than getting zeroes.

— Gui Xiaoxi, company staff

### Positive guidance is needed

I know from what I have read that Chen Shengzhang

likes thinking and has some creative ideas. If he received some type of positive guidance when at school, I don't think he would have gone so far. Take the example of Wang Nanzi, a Shanghai student, whose grades were extremely bad. She ended up going to the US to study and won a prize in an animation contest there.

Two students – but two very different results.

If we do not realize the problem, more students will be sacrificial lambs.

— Xu Jingsheng, journalist

### Zeros cannot break the exam

For Chen, he can make a statement by proving that he is brave enough to refuse taking the exams. However, he is just one special example after all. It is common for a person to change his life through the entrance exam.

He should realize that this just a part of life. Although getting zero scores can raise people's awareness of the test's disadvantages, it cannot deny its positive functions. It is still a nice opportunity for people to realize their life values.

— Li Shaoqiang, journalist



# US documentary Nanking to be released here tomorrow

By Chu Meng

Following its critically acclaimed debut at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival in the US, the documentary *Nanking* will receive its first theatrical release across China tomorrow, marking the 70th Anniversary of the War of Resistance Against Japan.

American Producer Ted Leonis, Academy Award-winning director Bill Guttentag and co-director Dan Sturman attended the premiere of the film in Beijing on Tuesday.

*Nanking* tells the story of the Japanese invasion of Nanjing, China, in the early days of World War II. A small group of Westerners banded together to establish a "safety zone" where over 200,000 Chinese found refuge.

"The story is told through directly deep interviews with Chinese survivors, chilling archival footage and photos of the events, and testimonies of former Japanese sol-



Director Bill Guttentag (left) and co-director Dan Sturman.

Photo by Tian Yufeng

diers. Another essential stage of pre-production was finding Chinese survivors to take part in the film. In December 2005, our co-producer Violet Du Feng traveled to Nanjing to meet with over 30 survivors, talking with them with tears in face every single time," Guttentag, the director, said at a roundtable discussion with mainstream Chinese documentary filmmakers Tuesday.

Sturman, the co-director,

added "Shooting in Japan was more difficult because the subject of [Nanjing] is so controversial there. It was challenging to find former Japanese soldiers willing to talk about their experiences in [Nanjing]. The Japanese soldiers who participated in the film were found through members of the Japanese peace movement."

However, some Chinese filmmakers still complained that their

American counterparts were far from accurate or thorough enough when digging up the bloody and sensational truth of the past. Cheng Hong, an editor from CCTV said, "Though I was very depressed coming out of the premiere tonight, I still felt that I need something more about the ravaged humanity. In some plots, I didn't want to hear soft background music. It kind of ruined part of my depression."

But Sturman responded, "We knew the film did not show up fully and cruelly. During the initial stages, we really got a lot of materials, which were cruel and bloody. But we thought we needed to have balance. We wanted it to be able to show people as much as possible what happened to the city in 1937, but without making it graphic to keep people from coming to see it. The more people see it, the more people will know the truth."



Yaroslav Dereha (left)

Photo by Selena Geng

## Ukrainian linguist ends language tour

By Huang Daohen

Yaroslav Dereha, a Ukrainian linguist and pioneer in teaching Chinese in the Ukraine, ended his half-year language tour in China last week and paid a visit to Beijing.

"I have come to China and traveled around in order to study Chinese and its culture, and it's proved to be a great success," Dereha said, adding that he was not satisfied with his Chinese, especially the spoken Chinese, though his 868-page bilingual Chinese teaching book *Kytaisk'a Garmota* was published last year in Ukraine.

Dereha, 52, had shown great interest in learning Chinese when he happened to come across the language in university during the 1980s. After more than 20 years of learning and teaching Chinese, he developed his own method of language learning and teaching, "Act to Learn," which he practiced at Lviv University and other schools with great success.

The principles of learning Chinese are extremely well done in his new book. The detailed Ukrainian explanation aside, Dereha also made up an interesting story for each Chinese character that develops into a larger story. There are a number of drama situations in the book. "When you read [it], you cannot help acting," Dereha said.

"Language study should not be boring, there should be something interesting to keep your desire to learn," he said, "Interesting stories should help you remember more easily, especially for kids."

Dereha should be proud of his book, not because it's the first bilingual Chinese teaching book in Ukrainian, but also for the controversy that followed after being published. The book is for adults, since it contains sexual pictures and illustrations in its second half, most of which are quoted from ancient Chinese works.

"They are part of the culture and philosophy," he said, "If there is no bad, then there is either no good."

Besides being a linguist and teacher, Dereha is also an author and translator. In 1990 he set up the English Language Theatre "Candy Lion-Fiesta," where students were taught English, Italian, French, German and even elementary Chinese.

Dereha now wishes to set up a private Chinese Language School in Ukraine in the near future and shares his own way of learning foreign languages with students.

## Spanish Flamenco queen lights up Beijing



Cristina Hoyos (middle)

Photo provided by Poly Theater

By Gan Tian

Cristina Hoyos, the queen of the dance that represents Spanish Flamenco art, set the dance floor on fire at the Poly Theater from Tuesday to Thursday.

Along with 14 performers and six musicians, the dancer arrived in the capital last Saturday. She prepared her performance, "A trip to the South," for the ancient city

— a story about a woman who is traveling to an unknown place.

"The Flamenco performance is to show the audience the pain, joy and passion that everyday people face. So is my show," she said.

On the stage, Hoyos displayed the passion and love she has for the dance by using her own unique moves in the Spanish art. "Passion is the thing we always need in life.

I want to use this to show everyone that you should be passionate about life and love," she said.

Though she was somewhat familiar with China, she still showed great interest in pushing the Spanish culture into the mainstream here. "Flamenco is to show the beauty of the female body. It is such a unique art that everybody in the world that has a chance to

see it loves it. Chinese audiences seem to be good at listening to people's hearts. They will love it!"

Hoyos is one of Spain's top flamenco dancers and has made an indelible imprint on the world of flamenco dance. Her dance in the opening ceremony of 1992 Barcelona Olympics showed the world the charm of this performance art.

## Disney hits Beijing stage with a little magic

By Gan Tian

Brad Ross and Alex Gonzalez, the two young magicians from the US, will kick off their first Mickey Mouse Star Magic Show tonight at Beijing Exhibition Theater.

The pair was extremely excited about having the opportunity to see China. "The first magic I learned at five years old was called linking rings, which is ancient Chinese magic. Now I finally came to China to see this great country," Ross said. His partner, Gonzalez gave an early glimpse of the performance as he performed a magic trick at the press conference — tearing a

piece of paper and then transforming it into a colorful paper hat out of the small pieces and then presenting it to a young female fan.

The two illusionists also had the opportunity to take a glimpse at some of China's magicians. "We watched 'face changing' and had dinner with one of the magicians. It was fantastic," said Gonzalez. Ross even said that he wanted to learn the trick for himself, "But we know that this art was passed down from generation to generation, and it is a certain rule in the magic community that we don't reveal our own tricks."

After arriving last Thursday with the Disney team, the pair began preparing for the show. However, they either wouldn't reveal their own tricks or even talk about the performance. "As it is a magic show, there are many secrets we cannot tell the audience in advance. The best part of magic show is that you should feel it yourself," Gonzalez said.

In the show, the Disney stars are all showing up to make magic, including Mickey, Minnie and countless other favorites. They are all involved in one grand story about magic.



Brad Ross (left) and Alex Gonzalez (right) with Chinese face-changing magician.

Photo provided by NMG Entertainment (Beijing)



## UN promotes CSR international conference

By Huang Daohen

"Corporate social responsibility (CSR) must be taken into consideration when projects of environmental or social concern are started, even the appointment and appraisal of international and domestic enterprise bosses," an unnamed senior business leader said last weekend during an international conference.

The conference, focused on CSR and corporate citizenship, was jointly organized by the United Nations Development Programme and the China Enterprise Confederation (CEC), and featured as many as 500 prominent business leaders, government representatives, civil service leaders and academics.

"The ability to perform CSR should be one of the major factors in the selection and appraisal of firm leaders," Hu Xinxin, CEC's vice-president, said.

"A business leader who only cares about profit margins and neglects social responsibility will drive high consumption of energy and heavy pollution. Such behavior is a crime against society and its people," Hu said.

The CSR conference was a preparatory meeting for the UN Global Compact Leaders Summit held on July 5-6 in Geneva, Switzerland. More than 80 Chinese business leaders participated in the summit, making it the largest group of Chinese business to take part in a high-level global CSR event.



## Design and lifestyle of Milan on display

The "Chairs and Footstools" series refers to the feminine form and the goodness of fertility.

Photo by Tian Yufeng

By Chu Meng

"Milano Made in Design," a new design exhibit, opened yesterday at Today Art Museum in Beijing. The exhibit is promoted by both the Milan Municipal and Milan Chamber of Commerce with the cooperation of the Italian Embassy in China.

The exhibition demonstrates Milan's limitless creativity and manufacturing prowess, and had previously toured New York, Toronto and Tokyo. Over 160 objects celebrating the quality, beauty,

design and lifestyle of Milan and the surrounding territory are on display until July 17.

All exhibit images have been metaphorically represented through Leonardo da Vinci's work. On the exhibition floor, a blow up of da Vinci's late 15th-century sketch map of Milan with Google Earth-like technology enables visitors who stand on it to zoom into city districts responsible for Milanese design gems of the late-20th and early 21st century.

Besides the exhibition, a series of seminars and round

table talks will be held at the museum. A seminar titled "Through the territory: the new role of design" will be a discussion about Italian and Chinese design, contemporary art, architecture and manufacture, where training can bring an opportunity to create new collaborative interactions between the two countries.

Another seminar, "Milan excellence in design and craftsmanship," will introduce ten creative companies from Milan to the booming Chinese contemporary design market.

## China-Peru group agrees on heritage protection

By Han Manman

The National Cultural Institute (INC) of Peru and China Great Wall Society (CGWS) signed a memorandum of understanding Monday to exchange experiences in both countries' heritage protection.

The Machu Picchu archaeological complex, located in the Cusco Region, is the most important and most beautiful legacy left by the ancient cultures of Peru, and one of the few locations in the Americas that UNESCO has declared to be a World Heritage Site for both "nature" and "culture," Gonzalo Gutierrez Reinel, vice minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru, said.

Reinel said another such site is the Great Wall of China. The exchanges between the INC Regional Office of Cusco and CGWS will undoubtedly provide benefits in terms of the preservation of both of these magnificent historical monuments, in particular in the fields of sustainable tourism and the technical conservation of stone structures.

"Our plan is to send groups of experts to Peru every year to study how Peru protects Machu Picchu, and to help the Peruvian people have a better understanding of China's Great Wall," Dong Yaohui, vice chairman of CGWS, said.

The Great Wall and Incan ruins of Machu Picchu are both finalists for the "New Seven Great Wonders of the World," a campaign started by a foundation established by Swiss explorer Bernard Weber in 1999. The final choices are expected to be announced tomorrow.

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# Enterprises talk sports under the falling rain



Employees from foreign enterprises compete in the sport meeting in Shunyi.

Photo provided by BDA

By Jackie Zhang

The first foreign enterprises sport meeting was held last Saturday at Beijing Economic-Technological Development Area (BDA) at Yizhuang, Daxing District. Although it was rainy, all the participants enjoyed themselves in various competitions.

There were approximately 500 foreign companies present at the BDA. Huge companies like Nokia, Panasonic, Benz, DaimlerChrysler, have located their headquarters and factories in the area one after another in recent years. In the sport meeting, 30 of them, including more than 70 foreign staff members, took part.

It also looked like Japanese companies made their mark at the meeting. Among all the company participants, Japanese companies were in the top ten of four different categories. "The result is not important. What is important is that the sports meeting provides us a chance to communicate with other enterprises and to show the company's spirit," Zhao Tong, general manager of SMC (China) Co, Ltd, whose headquarters is in Japan, said.

A throng of people from nearby communities and language schools also participated with each of them taking part in at least five different competitions.

"It is an interesting sports meeting. My friends and I have joined in several competitions and have had a great time," Dominik Sailer from Beijing Benz DaimlerChrysler Automotive Co, Ltd, said after attending the rope skipping competitions. He ranked fifth among all the foreign participants.

Although it began to rain when noon approached, everyone still continued their competitions. "It was such a funny event and I was having such a good time. Most of the activities are specially designed. I'll try my best to get through them," Sarah Kelley from the New Day Learning Center, said.

## Mariners system receives a little Chinese infusion

By Jiang Xubo

The Seattle Mariners finally signed two Chinese baseball players late last month after years of searching the country for Major League Baseball's version of a Yao Ming or Yi Jianlin from the NBA. It also brings some satisfaction in MLB's latest effort to scout baseball talent in the nation and promote awareness and ultimately enthusiasm for the sport.

Infielder and outfielder Jia Yubing, 28, and catcher Wang Wei, 24, both members of the Beijing Tigers in the Chinese Baseball League (CBL) and China's national baseball team, signed seven-year minor league contracts on June 21. The players are expected to report to Seattle at the end of this month or in early August.

"They will start out in the Mariner's farm system, and based on how well they do, hopefully move up. And maybe someday you will see them in Safeco Field in Seattle," Ted Heid, Seattle's director of Pacific Rim Scouting, said, "It will be a very difficult road for these two players. They will have to work extremely hard and have some luck along the way to make it to the majors."

Wang and Jia usually play less than 40 games in CBL's three-month-season. Yet, on average, US minor league seasons are generally 120 to 130 games a year. The two players would be expected to play in around 100 of them and at a much higher competition level than they are used to in the CBL.

The Seattle's was not the only team that inked Chinese players. The New York Yankees also signed two teenage players from China late last month.

In addition, several other Major League teams, including the Philadelphia Phillies and the Boston Red Sox, have sent scouts to here in the last few years, according to Shen Wei, Secretary General of Chinese Baseball Association.

## Graduation day at No 55



International students from No 55 Middle School with Meng Xun, their English teacher after their graduation ceremony last Friday.

Photo by Tian Yufeng

## Catch Ultimate Frisbee each weekend

By Gan Tian

Beijing Ultimate Frisbee kicked off its summer league last weekend. Any Frisbee fans can attend, whether they are a pro or have never played before.

Four different teams have been set and will play against each other every weekend. However, Jason Cox, a member in the organization, said that everyone can come at any time. "We welcome new players to get to know this sport.

There are no qualifications, just come if you are interested."

The summer league will last until the end of August. Beijing Ultimate Frisbee has experienced a successful seven-year history. At first, only expats played the game, but later some local Chinese also joined in.

"Probably the most exciting thing is that we are starting to see more and more local Chinese coming out to play. It is becoming

a big sport in Tianjin and some of the Beijing Universities," Cox said, "The feature of this sport is that it doesn't have referees," Cox explained. Players gather together to discuss the score. The sport's spirit represents honesty and good sportsmanship.

"You should have an open mind and have fun," Cox added.

Anybody who is interested can visit [beijingultimate.com](http://beijingultimate.com) to sign up.

## Tribeca 798 Film Fest showcases break-dancing

By Dianna Bai

On July 10-11, Lower Manhattan's annual indie showcase, the Tribeca Film Festival, will hit the streets of Beijing for the first time. The 798 Factory will host the inaugural event, which will primarily feature free screenings of Planet B-boy, a documentary about the global resurgence of break-dancing by Korean-American director Benson Lee.

Intended to give Beijing residents a taste of the New York festival, Tribeca 798 also plans to throw a block party and reception on its

opening night and will attended by Lee, Craig Hatkoff, one of the founders of the festival, and members of the Chinese film community. The screenings will begin at 8pm, both nights.

In the past six years, the Tribeca Film Festival, in the district of Manhattan in New York, has showcased 18 films by Chinese directors, including *Lost in Beijing*, *Shaolin Soccer*, and *Together*. The festival was launched in 2002 by Robert DeNiro, Jane Rosenthal, and Hatkoff to revitalize the vibrant artis-

tic culture of Lower Manhattan after it was devastated by the September 11th attacks. With a mission to promote cross-cultural exchange, it has rapidly emerged as one of the most respected film festivals in the world.

This year, according to Tammie Rosen, a spokesperson for the festival, "We want to bring to Beijing and the Chinese community the experience of discovering filmmakers through a festival experience where you see films that you wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to see."

## Events

### CH+INDIE FEST II: The Wrath of Khan

CH+INDIE FEST II will generously donate to a percentage of the tickets sales to Altruistic Alcoholics, a Beijing-based charity group, at their festival for their current fundraising project: Help Souleiaida (an organization dedicated to communicating between people across cultures and national boundaries) build Schools in Sichuan province for the Yi minority. They need 10,000 yuan per school. You can support them by coming to the festival where you can also enjoy some of Beijing's top rock bands.

Where: 2Kolegas, Lianmaqiao Lu, inside drive-in movie theater, Chaoyang

When: July 7 and 8, 4pm-11:30pm

Cost: 45 yuan per day (A portion of proceeds will go to Altruistic Alcoholics)

For more information: [souleiaida.org](http://souleiaida.org)

### Booktalk: "Sayonara Bar" by Susan Barker

Susan Barker's debut novel chronicles the story of Mary, an English girl working as a hostess in a sleazy Tokyo bar. Through her efforts to entertain her less than illustrious clientele, and her interactions with the various characters in and around the "Sayonara Bar," Barker paints a vivid picture of contemporary Japan. Tonight she reads from this, and her second novel, set in Malaysia.

Barker worked in Japan for two years as an English teacher and now lives in London.

Where: The Bookworm, Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang

When: July 17, 7:30pm

Tel: 6586 9507

### Sports Journalism Panel: A Guide to Covering the Olympics

Foreign Correspondents Club of China will organize a sports journalism panel for its members on covering the Olympics with Francesco Liello, Gazzetta dello Sport from Italy; Kei Matsumura, Kyodo News from Japan and Scott McDonald, Associated Press from the US.

Where: to be determined

When: July 10, 10am-12am

### Book Club Day Group: "Lapse of Time" by Wang Anyi

Wang Anyi is a Chinese writer and currently the chairwoman of the Writers' Association of Shanghai. A novella that features six of her stories translated and collected in "Lapse of Time." Chinese Culture Club invites members to come and discuss the book.

Where: China Culture Center, Kent Center, No 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: July 18, 10:30am-12pm

Tel: 6432 9341 (Monday-Friday, 9am-6pm), 6432 1041 (weekday mornings and evenings; and weekend, rerouted to mobile phone)

(By He Jianwei)





Expat girls like soccer!

Photo provided by ClubFootball

## Women tackle the pitch

By Jackie Zhang

Step aside guys, women are also getting on the soccer pitch with specially designed programs for the ladies here in Beijing. Since 2002, ClubFootball has been running a women's soccer program, which provides them a chance to also get on the pitch of the world's most popular sport.

Every Monday at 8pm, the training course starts in Chaoyang Park near the east gate. The 90-minute session is divided into two parts – 45 minutes focusing on skills and the other 45 for actual matches.

"There really is no difference between training women and men. The same methods are used, but hopefully, in a more fun environment than traditional men's coaching. The reason for this is because the women are there to just enjoy soccer," Jonathan White, a coach for ClubFootball, said.

"Aside from the obvious point of learning to play soccer or improving as a player, they learn team spirit and sportsmanship. It's also a good way of getting in shape and a good chance to meet new people. You do not need any previous experience, all abilities are welcome. You get out of it what you put into it; for example if you want to get fit you can run around more," White said.

Hanneke Verhelst, a member of the program, used to play soccer as a small girl. "Coming to Beijing, I hadn't played for ages and it seemed like a good opportunity to train these old skills once again and meet new people. I've always loved the game so when I saw the advertisement for women's soccer last year I decided to join."

Verhelst said that they practiced some general skills such as passing, being patient with the ball, but also moves and tricks like the ones used by Dennis Bergkamp and Maradona. "At some games, things can get really rough! It didn't happen just once that girls ran smack into each other in order to get the ball or try to score a goal. It all happens in a very friendly manner so in the end it doesn't matter. It's just fun when people really get into the game," Verhelst said.

"It's not difficult at all to learn about soccer. You just have to be enthusiastic and active. Once you can hit the ball correctly, you're off!" Verhelst said.

### If interested:

8pm on Mondays at Chaoyang Park. The cost is 40 yuan (30 for students) and is collected after each session.

For more information you can get in touch with ClubFootball and speak with someone at their office about it.

Tel: 5130 6893/4/5/6

Email:

jonathan@wanguoqunxing.com



Ninety-nine percent of food in Lourie Pearlman's family is organic now.

Photo By Tian Yufeng

## Organic products make their way here

By Annie Wei

Two years ago, organic food products still seemed far too new-off in the distance for Beijing. Now, with the increasing awareness of health and wellness, and the recently exposed food scandals, more and more people are starting to try organic foods.

A new online group that provides organic information for the capital is expanding fast. In only two short months, the group has expanded from one to 100 members, with over 95 percent being expatriates. They share resources, ideas and information through a Yahoo! Group, such as where to find organic products like flax seed oils, organic noodle, to the latest research and other relevant articles and newsletters.

Lourie Pearlman, who has been

in China for almost four years, is the founder of the Beijing Organic Consumers Yahoo Group.

Trying to live an organic lifestyle, Pearlman is known by her friends for providing information on health. "I was thinking, if I have a Yahoo! group with all the information I have stored, I don't need to explain the same things to people over and over again," she said in response to her initial motivation to set up a group.

At first, it was mainly only her who posted information of where to get organic products in town, or related health links. But now, other members often pick up the slack for her and respond to the group. Last week, the group added another ten new members, and five of them are not even in Beijing.

"One of them said that they

were in the US, but will be moving to Beijing shortly, and they are looking for where to get organic products here," Pearlman said.

Nathaniel Davis, an young American man working in Beijing said he found this group accidentally online and thought it was a great group for people who have interests in organic products in Beijing.

With the group attracting more and more people, Pearlman said she had plans to get everyone together, to help each other even more to get organic products that they cannot find in China. There is also the chance that someone might be able to pick something up when visiting back home or even touring an organic farm together in suburban Beijing.

### Organic delivery in town:

More and more places in Beijing have started offering organic foods, international supermarkets Carrefour and Wal-Mart have jumped on the bandwagon, as well as smaller supermarkets like Jenny Lou and April Gourmet.

#### Beijing Organic Farm Co Ltd

Lots of their products, especially dry beans are seen in many supermarkets now.

The minimum order for home deliver service is 100 yuan.

Tel: 8408 5108

#### De Run Wu

It's a small organic farm run by a PhD graduate of Beijing University Ji Yunliang. Ji, a Buddhist, said two or three years ago that 70-80 percent of the customers were expats, but now the percentage of Chinese customers

and expat is about fifty-fifty.

Each order costs about 80 RMB and includes four kilograms of fresh vegetables.

Tel: 6470 4918

#### Lohao City Supermarket

Apart from fresh daily products, they have many organic products from Taiwan. It also offers home delivery.

Tel: 8459 4332

#### Green Yard Organic Dairy Farm, Yanqing County

Offers fresh organic milk and yogurt (with or without sugar).

Ms Wang from Green Yard Organic Dairy Farm said most of here customers are expats and young Chinese professionals. "The organic price is still too expensive for the average Chinese customer," Wang said. For special delivery, call +1-800-

810-9903

#### Eco Elite Trade Co

Specializing in German organic wine, home delivery.

Tel: 6553 6278 or ecoelite-wine.net

#### Beijing Bolongbao Winery

Wine made from certified organic grapes

Tel: 8813 9609

For more information about organic food directory, you can contact aiwastar@163bj.com, which is an email address provided by the China Environment and Sustainable Development Reference and Research Centre Team Beijing. They have very detailed information on most Beijing organic supermarkets, restaurants, farm tours, as well as similar information on other cities like Shanghai and Dalian.

## ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyang@ynet.com

**Does anyone know where I can find non-smoking restaurants – other than fast food – in Beijing, or restaurants at least ones with a non-smoking section?**

Most restaurants in Beijing haven't forbidden smoking yet, but many of them have smoke-free areas and smoking areas.

**Is there any place that I can lie down on the grass and enjoy the sun in Beijing?**

You can lie down somewhere and enjoy the sun easily in Beijing. But lying down on the grass is out of the question. Most grass you see in the city is not allowed for people to walk on. We have too many people living in the city, and the weather is often too harsh for plants to grow. If lying down on the sand is ok for you, you can try some outdoor beach parks, for example, Tuanjiehu Park near Third Ring Road.

**Hey, I am new in Beijing and staying in a hostel now. I am looking for an apartment, but found out quite a few places ask for one month rent as the deposit and to pay every three months. Is this normal or can it be more flexible?**

Yes, this is a routine rule for renting apartments in Beijing, but it can be flexible. It mainly depends on your landlord. Try to negotiate and see how it works out.

**I had a car accident before and I heard that Chinese traditional medicine like massage and acupuncture might help. I am looking for a clinic or hospital with good massage and acupuncture, can you recommend some? What other things should I know before I try it out for the first time?**

My recommendation is going to a well-established one for your first time. The most famous Chinese traditional medicine location is called Tong Ren Tang (No 24, Dashila, Qianmen, 6308 3740), Guo Yi Tang (south of Changhongqiao, the third ring road), Beijing Chinese Traditional Medicine Hospital (No 23, Meishuguan Hou Jie, Dongcheng), Sino-Japanese Friendship Hospital (Yinhua-yuan Dong Jie, Chaoyang), and the most famous Xiehe Hospital (No 1, Shuaifu Yuan, Wangfujing, Dongcheng). We also suggest that you take a Chinese friend with you.

**Hey, I have some friends who are going to visit separately but stay at my place for around a week each. Do you think it necessary for them to register at the local police station?**

Technically speaking, yes.

(By Wei Ying)





Bacchanal

## Interpreting the classics

The classics are put in a new light with Miao's unique vantage point. He subtly varies the perspective and noticeably modifies the formal design and construction, bringing on a perceptible shift of meaning.

"But all these changes can only be understood in the synchronism of both pictorial worlds within the process of artistic reception," Anke Mueller from the Alexander Ochs Gallery Berlin, said.

As Miao employed his own language on the originals, he treated the classics as his own. "The relationship between the classics and my take on them appear like the relationship between myself and water. The water is from the outside but has become part of my body," Miao said.

The concept of the temporal and spatial variation has flowing among Miao's works. As the transportation has developed day by day, Miao believed people are used to being exposed to the culture formed in the other space and time. "We absorb it as our own culture as we never refuse 'absorbing' the water outside of our body," he said.

In Mueller's mind, visible expression of the flowing of time and power of life are full of symbolic implications, the element of water becomes a mirror. It's a mirror of various ideas and perceptions, attitudes and cultural values – a mirror of time and society.

Water has become the link of the classic pieces with Miao's own interpretation. "Water again and again becomes a metaphor. A source of creation and signification, and a source of art – continuously changing and flowing, and yet always present, just as art itself," Mueller said.



Martyrdom



# Flowing through the history

## Miao Xiaochun: H<sub>2</sub>O –



The Foundation of Youth

## History passes as water

An Art History major at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing, who comparing the history of art to the history of life is too brief to worth mentioning.

"By selecting from the long as well as short history of art, the ten classic grand inter-linkage of life played by water with by using the latest in digital technology."

The thousands of characters in these works have been replaced by a three-dimensional 'metabolism' – just like water flowing into his body.

"In this way, I have 'flowed' into different works of other times and have merged with the original ones," he said.



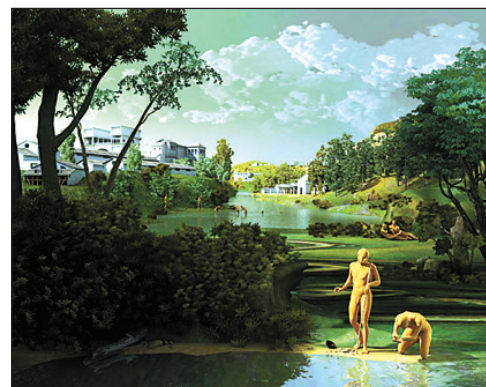
# through y of art A Study of Art History

By He Jianwei

"H<sub>2</sub>O – A Study of Art History" is another in a series of landmark pieces by Miao Xiaochun. His latest works took him over a year to finish following his acclaimed, "Last Judgment in Cyberspace." H<sub>2</sub>O reflects Miao's constant questioning of where life is from and where it will go.

Miao chose ten classics – including *The Fountain of Youth*, *The Bacchanal* and *The Landscape* – and interpreted them into his own, by the use of computer images.

His works often invoke a sense of confusion between the past and the present. The computer images have a strong sense of the modern era, while the backgrounds appear ancient and classic.



Landscape with Diogenes

## H<sub>2</sub>O's elemental composition

Miao chose the name H<sub>2</sub>O, the formula for water, because the elemental composition of pure water is H<sub>2</sub>O, as it is for muddy water; or water from the past, present or future.

"I really don't know where I was from or where I will go, but I know many substances go into and out of my body every day, among which is water, H<sub>2</sub>O," Miao said.

"Before entering my body, it has gone through numerous living things – plants, animals, and human beings – and it will again go through numerous plants, animals and human beings after being released from my body. I am just one of the containers holding it temporarily, or one of the points it flows by," he said.

"Does it carry and deliver certain information about the source and destination of life? All forms of life and water vitally interrelate with each other? Do they thus show compassion and concern for each other? Is constantly changing life, which is delicate and subtle like water, recycling endlessly as water does? Will vanished life condense again at some other place and return to earth just like evaporated water drops condensing into rain, snow, or frost?" he added.

### Miao Xiaochun: H<sub>2</sub>O – A Study of Art History

**Where:** White Space Beijing, No 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

**When:** Tue-Sun, 11am-7am, until September 16

**Tel:** 8456 2054



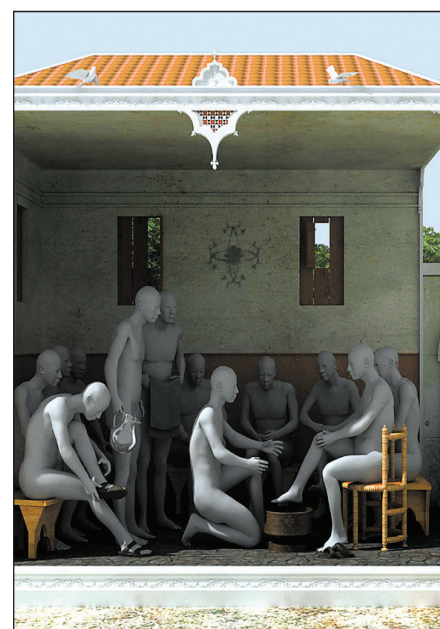
Photos provided by White Space Beijing

## er flows

no later continued his education at in Kassel, Germany, he believes that oning; but compared with individual life, the history of art is fairly long. s involving water that have touched my heart, I have tried to depict the l technology," he said.

ee dimensional model of his own image by computer, a kind of

'generated' entirely new art works which have blood and flesh relations



The Washing of the Feet



# Just in Case

## Winner of Carnegie Book Prize

**meg rosoff**

author of *HOW I LIVE NOW*

Winner of the Michael L. Printz Award

"Magical and utterly faultless."—Mark Haddon



## Dog Dad

### Nothing to do with sex

By Annie Wei

*Dog Dad* (The Writers Publishing House, 17 yuan) is the latest release from young Chinese woman Wei Hui; at sina.com.cn excerpts are available.

The story is about a Shanghai woman looking back to her first love. Wei, the woman, refused her beloved boyfriend Zhe's proposal, and Zhe left. So Wei decided to take the dog Lu Fengchan to track him down. Wei encounters many things on her quest for Zhe, and the trip quickly becomes one of self discovery.

Wei said the main reason to name the book *Dog Dad* was that the book contains a dog who can speak. The book has nothing to do with sex, unlike her infamous *Shanghai Baby* (2000),

which was banned and publicly burned in China as "decadent" — an act that boosted the book's sales abroad.

"The book talks about kindness, courage and belief, as well as forgiveness, and having strong beliefs together with the capacity to forgive is not always an easy thing," Wei said.

Many readers might find her new book less rebellious than her last, but it is far more mature. She said she still thinks her book was very misinterpreted in China. "Maybe it is because people in China still think that weird clothes, sex or fashion are what define the younger generation. My opinion is that it lies in writing trends. I think this book is a bit 'new age': it's a fantasy

or spiritual novel. I haven't seen this kind of book in the Chinese market yet," Wei said.

"I think the tone of the new book's cover is a little too dark, and the English translation of the name as 'Dog Dad' doesn't sound right. I think it should be 'Doggy Dog,'" she posted on her blog.

"Everyone should buy at least nine copies of the book: buy them as birthday gifts for friends, classmates, lovers, family members or strangers. Please tell them, the woman who writes this book is very unusual, and that her life is more like a novel than her work. She has written quite a few books, though most are unavailable now. This book might be her last for a long time. It's very dif-

## Carnegie Book Prize

The Carnegie is the UK's longest-running award for children's writing and, although the winners take home no prize money, it is one of the most coveted awards. Past winners include many great children's writers of the 20th and 21st centuries, including CS Lewis, Noel Streatfeild, Mary Norton, Philip Pullman and David Almond. The selection process is rooted in the professional expertise of librarians across the country, who nominate titles for the long-list. A panel of children's librarians from the Youth Libraries Group then select a shortlist of up to eight titles and, finally, the winner.

(By Wei Ying)

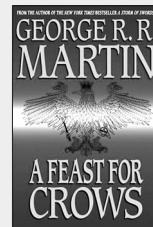
## Chaterhouse Recommendations

This week, we found some books on discount at Chaterhouse Beijing. The discount amount varies from 10 to 20 percent.

### A Feast for Crows

By George R R Martin

784pp, Spectra, 160 yuan  
As the book begins, Bri-



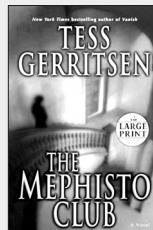
enne of Tarth is looking for Lady Catelyn's daughters, Queen Cersei is losing her mind and Arya Stark is training with the Faceless Men of Braavos; all three wind up in cliffhangers that would do justice to any soap opera. Meanwhile, other familiar faces — notably Jon Snow, Tyrion Lannister and Daenerys Targaryen — are glaringly absent though promised to return in book five.

### The Mephisto Club

By Tess Gerritsen

368pp, Ballantine Books, 176 yuan

The sixth book in the Jane



Rizzoli/Maura Isles series (after *Vanish*) contains Tess Gerritsen's trademark lurid writing, grisly medical details, and chilling suspense. This time, a satanically-driven killer tortures and dismembers his victims while an esoteric cult considers the existence of a gene for evil. It's not a tale for the faint of heart; metaphysical inquiries into demonology and evil are matched, page by page, by grisly details.

### Remind Me Again Why I Need a Man?

By Claudia Carroll

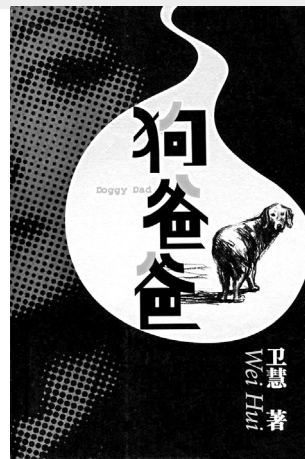
384pp, Bantam Press, 176 yuan

Ever since she was a little



girl, all Amelia Lockwood wanted was to get married — the Tiffany ring, the Vera Wang dress ... the whole shebang. In single-minded pursuit of her ultimate goal, Amelia gets in touch with every ex-boyfriend she's ever had — right back to age sixteen — with some surprising results!

(By Annie Wei)



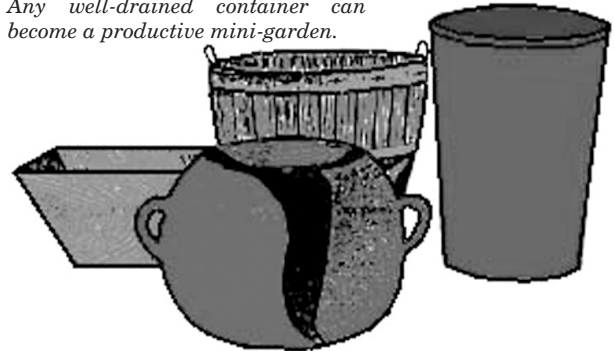
ferent from her previous work, and worth collecting," Wei said.

As an avid reader but not a huge fan of her, I think it's a bit too much.



# Gardening on your balcony

Any well-drained container can become a productive mini-garden.



## Tips

### Choose vegetables suited to your balcony

What kind of vegetables you can plant depends not only on your preference and needs, but also on the direction your balcony faces.

If it faces to the south, it is the ideal spot for planting the vegetables. Anything can be grown easily on this balcony, including aquatic vegetables like lotus root, water caltrop and water chestnut.

If your balcony faces east or west, it is better for sun-loving and shade-enduring vegetables, such as onion, leek, towel gourd, parsley and Chinese radish. If your balcony faces west, make sure your vegetables can endure high temperatures, because you are guaranteed to get a lot of sunlight.

If your balcony faces north, it will have little sunshine during the daytime. You should grow shade-loving vegetables there, like lettuce, asparagus and water spinach.

### Proper containers are key

Almost any type of container can be used for growing vegetables. Try using bushel baskets, drums, gallon cans, tubs or wooden boxes. The size of the container can vary according to the crop selection and space available. Pots from 15 to 25 centimeters are satisfactory for green onions, parsley and herbs. For most vegetables crops such as tomatoes, peppers and eggplant, 5-gallon containers are better. They are easy to handle and provide adequate space for root growth.

Regardless of the type or size of container used, adequate drainage is a necessity for successful yields. Try adding 2.5 centimeters of coarse gravel to the bottom of the container to improve drainage. The drain holes are best located along the side of the container, about 0.5 to 1 centimeters from the bottom.

(By He Jianwei)



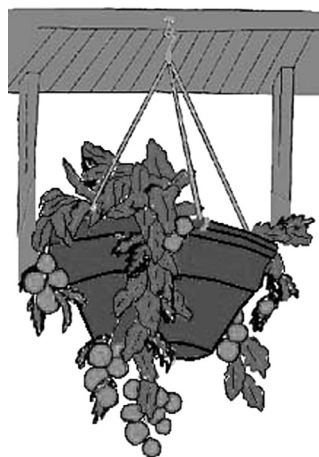
"The life of a farmer, spring-time and a patch of grass are my dreams," reads a real estate sign in the Beijing subway. It is difficult to make out the writing with the endless stream of people passing in front of it as they board and exit.

### Live healthier

Urban residents have few opportunities to eat fresh vegetables every day. They usually go to the market and buy food to get them through the week. If they plant vegetables themselves, they could eat fresh ones at any time. Planting on your own is also a great way to skirt the chemical problems of market-grown vegetables.

Wang Xueyan, as part of Life-styles of Health and Sustainability (LOHAS), plants tomatoes and cucumbers on her balcony. "There are only two ways for humans to connect with the environment: one is to protect the environment, and the other one is to destroy it," she said.

"Planting vegetables on the balcony is a win-win activity, both for the environment and for our-



Cherry tomatoes perform excellently in hanging baskets.

selves," she explains, "It can make your balcony greener, and contribute to a nicer city landscape. It also provides a source of fresh green food for our daily lives."

"It is a healthy habit to have, and I think it will only become more popular among Beijing's urbanites," she added.

### Living the dream

Yu Jun's wife used to love to plant flowers and plants on their balcony, but she was always disappointed with the results. "The kafir lilies never flowered on our balcony, and neither did the cannea," her husband said.

Last year, they found vines with yellow flowers wrapped around one of their pots. The vines eventually bore fruit, which turned out to be balsam pears. His wife picked up pears and made a cold dish. "It was fabulous. Since then, my wife has been fascinated with planting vegetables on the balcony," he said.

His wife bought some leek seeds early this year and planted them in a garden pot. "In the beginning, she used to get up and check how her leeks were doing every morning. In only half a month, they had shot up 20 centimeters. She has a lot of fun, and usually isn't disappointed with the results."

"Today, we have planted five pots of leeks. We can eat fresh leeks almost every day," he said.



"Cages" can be used with containers to support crops such as tomatoes, cucumbers and beans.



A bag of potatoes makes for a unique way to grow potatoes.





# Chilled noodles on a hot day

I'll bet you any money that it is going to be hot today. To survive the appetite-killing, hot and humid summer that really heats up from mid-July to late September, I heavily rely on a variety of chilled noodles for dinner. Here are seven recipes I highly recommend and are popular across the globe.

## Japanese red ginger chilled noodles with beef

In addition to featuring noodles for long life, this dish also makes use of the color red through the red chili powder and Japanese shredded red ginger, for red symbolizes life, good fortune and happiness.

### Ingredients:

1 pound sliced beef

### Marinade

Pinch salt

1/2 egg

1/4 cup water

2 tablespoons cornstarch

1 teaspoon baking powder

1 tablespoon cooking oil

### Group A (Flavored Broth)

10 cups chicken broth

1 tablespoon salt

2 tablespoons salad oil

1 cinnamon stick

2 star anise

1 teaspoon peppercorns

### Group B (Cold Noodle Sauce)

1/2 teaspoons salt

1 cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar

3/4 cup rice vinegar

Juice from one lime

1 tablespoon soy sauce

1 tablespoon sesame oil

1/3 cup water

### Noodles

5 ounces Chinese white noodles

1 tablespoon cooking oil

### Group C (Condiments)

1 ounce shredded cucumber

1 ounce shredded pickled carrot

1 tablespoon Japanese shredded red ginger

### Garnish

Red chili powder (cayenne)

### Directions:

Combine beef with marinade ingredients, and refrigerate at least 2 hours. Remove beef from marinade. Combine Group A ingredients and cook in stockpot with beef approximately 1 1/2 hours, until beef is tender. Mix Group B ingredients in bowl until completely dissolved into a sauce. Store in refrigerator.

Cook white noodles in boiling water approximately 1 minute. Remove and place in ice water until cold. Drain well. Coat noodles with 1 tablespoon cooking oil. Set beef on plate. Top with cold noodles. Pour 1/4 cup sauce (Group B) over noodles, and place Group C ingredients around plate. Garnish with dash of red chili powder and serve.



## Chilled spaghetti salad recipe

### Ingredients:

1 pound of thin spaghetti noodles, broken into 3-inch pieces

2 cucumbers

1 green bell pepper

2 medium tomatoes

2 medium onions

1 small bottle Italian dressing

2 ounces salad seasoning

### Directions:

Cook and drain spaghetti.

Peel cucumbers, remove seeds

and cut into small pieces. Cut green pepper, tomatoes and onions into small pieces. Mix all the ingredients with the spaghetti. Pour the Italian dressing over all of it. Let it marinate overnight.



## Korean spicy cold noodle mix

### Ingredients:

2 fresh cucumbers, cut into long, skinny shreds

10 ounces of kimchi, chopped coarse with its juice

1 tablespoon of soy sauce

1 tablespoon of sesame oil

1 teaspoon of crushed garlic

1 teaspoon of sesame seeds

1 tablespoon of vinegar

1 tablespoon of sugar

14 ounces Korean wheat-flour

noodles in a dried pasta form

### Directions:

In a large mixing bowl, combine the cucumber, kimchi, soy sauce, sesame oil, garlic, sesame seeds, vinegar and sugar, while distributing the seasoning evenly. Place it off to the side.

Bring 10 cups of water to a boil, and then add noodles. Cook for about 7 minutes, while stirring to prevent clumping. Korean wheat-flour noodles are thin and cook fairly quickly, so strain and run through cold water to chill.

Add the strained noodles to the salad mix to dress up the noodles. Put some ice in a shallow bowl and the put the noodles on top in a neat swirl. You can also add some of the salad mixture to spread over the top.

Complement with Korean barley tea water to make the meal even more complete.



## Greek chili-orange chilled noodle

### Ingredients:

#### For noodles

2 ounces of chili-orange sauce

10 ounces of thin noodles (Better to choose egg noodle)

4 tablespoons of bean sprouts

3 tablespoons of carrots, finely shredded

2 tablespoons of scallion rings

2 tablespoons of cilantro, chopped

3 tablespoons of roasted peanuts, chopped

#### Sauce

2 cups of chili oil

2 cups of black soy sauce

2 cups of cider vinegar

1/3 cup of sugar

2 tablespoons of kosher salt

6 fresh oranges, a finely grated zest only – with no white pith

### Directions:

For the sauce: Place all ingredients in a blender for 30 seconds.

For the chilled noodles: Cook noodles until al dente. Place a generous amount of ice water and then drain well. Lightly coat it with sesame-seed oil. Put the bean sprouts in boiling water (no salt) for 10 seconds. Let it chill in ice and then drain before using.

Shake the sauce thoroughly. In a bowl, add noodles and 2 ounces of sauce and then toss. Add bean sprouts and carrots, toss.

## Country French chicken with herb butter chilled noodles

### Ingredients:

2 tablespoons of extra-virgin olive oil

Coarse salt and pepper

2 pounds of boneless skinless chicken breast, thighs, or combination of both, cut into chunks

2 tablespoons of butter

2 shallots, chopped

3 small carrots, peeled and thinly sliced

10 mushrooms, finely chopped

4 sprigs of fresh tarragon, leaves removed and chopped

2 tablespoons of chopped flat-leaf parsley

1 cup of dry red wine

1 can of chunky-style crushed tomatoes or diced tomatoes in puree

For herb and butter egg noodles

1/2 pound of extra-wide egg noodles

2 tablespoons of butter, cut into small bits

2 sprigs of fresh tarragon, leaves removed and chopped

2 tablespoons of chopped flat-leaf parsley

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

### Directions:

In a large skillet over medium high heat, warm the olive oil. Season the chicken, brown it in the oil for 2 to 3 minutes on each side and then put it on a plate.

Return pan to stove and reduce heat to medium. Add butter and sauté the shallots, carrots, and mushrooms for three to five minutes. Add tarragon and parsley and then stir. Add wine and reduce liquid for 2 minutes. Add tomatoes, chicken let it simmer in the sauce for 10 minutes or until the chicken is cooked through.

## Hungarian turkey noodles

### Ingredients:

6 ounces of noodles, uncooked

2 cups of chopped cooked turkey

1 1/2 cup of cottage cheese

1 1/2 cup of sour cream

1/2 cup of shredded Cheddar cheese, divided

1/2 cup of shredded mozzarella cheese

1/4 cup of finely chopped onion

1/4 teaspoon of garlic salt

Salt and ground black pepper

Paprika

### Directions:

Heat the oven to 350 degrees. Cook noodles according to package directions for 4 minutes, drain. In a large bowl, stir together the remaining ingredients except a 1/4 cup of cheddar cheese. Stir in hot noodles, spoon into 2-quart baking dish. Bake for 20 minutes, sprinkle the remaining cheese on top. Sprinkle generously with paprika. Bake 10 minutes or until hot and bubbly.

(By Chu Meng)



# Transformers

## are coming to town

By Gan Tian

Though Steven Spielberg's new take on Transformers already debuted in the US, we have to wait another week for it to make it across the Pacific. The classic animated cartoon is something people around my age will never forget. Before the new movie arrives, you should consider buying some new toys to get prepared.

### 20th Anniversary Optimus Prime

This is the true Optimus Prime! Because the movie, it is very difficult to obtain him, so I could only find him online. The price is jacked far higher than it should be, but Optimus Prime is something beyond its price and value. It represents your childhood and your dreams.

Available: colourhill.com  
Price: 900 yuan



### Bumblebee

I love Bumblebee more than any other transformer: not only is he man's best friend, he's also good looking! He is the youngest of the Autobots, constantly striving to prove himself in the eyes of the taller, stronger bots he idolizes – especially his commander. I wish I had a brother like Bumblebee.

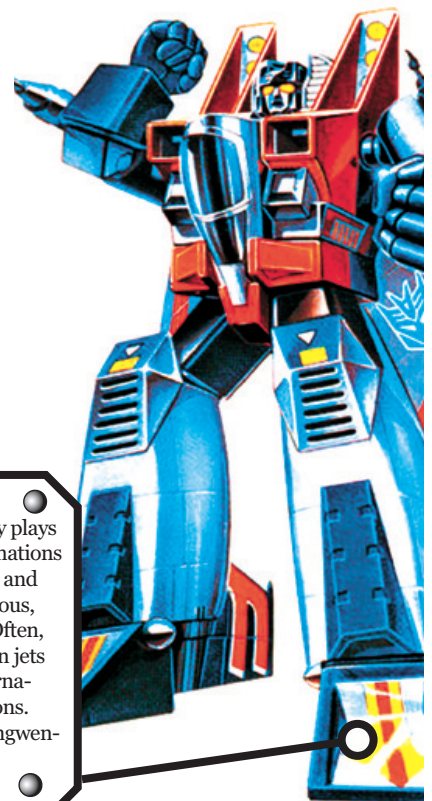
Available: F/5, Soshow Shopping Mall, Chongwenmen Wai Daijie, Chongwen  
Price: 279 yuan



### Wheeljack

Wheeljack's vehicle mode is a Lancia Stratos Turbo racing car. He is described as the mad scientist of the Autobot, since he's always inventing new weapons and gadgets. Though his intent is to benefit the Autobot cause, he usually ends up bringing great danger during critical situations. I wish I were Wheeljack.

Available: F/5, Soshow Shopping Mall, Chongwenmen Wai Daijie, Chongwen  
Price: 389 yuan



### Starscream

On the Decepticon side, Starscream certainly plays an important role. He appeared in several incarnations in the related comics, animated television series and movies. He is extremely ambitious and treacherous, though how strong and successful he is varies. Often, Starscream is the leader of a group of Decepticon jets referred to as the Seekers, and in his many incarnations he is second-in-command of the Decepticons.

Available: F/5, Soshow Shopping Mall, Chongwenmen Wai Daijie, Chongwen  
Price: 499 yuan

### Megatron

Megatron is able to modify his body's structure into other objects: the original "alternate mode" being a custom Walther P38. His name is supposedly derived from the Greek To Mega Therion, which means "The Great Beast," and is a reference to the Book of Revelations in the Christian Bible. It also sounds close to Metatron, one of the archangels. Scary, isn't he.

Available: F/5, Soshow Shopping Mall, Chongwenmen Wai Daijie, Chongwen  
Price: 389 yuan

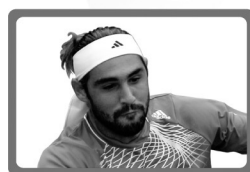
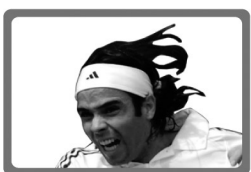

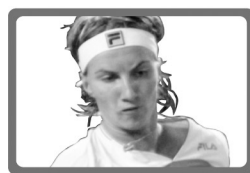


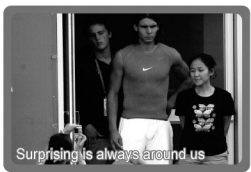





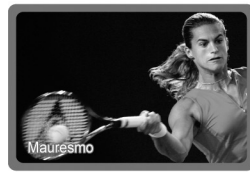











2007

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# Keep in contact with your eyes this summer

By Han Manman

Do you wear contact lenses? If so, please carefully read this article. It explains in great detail what you should be aware of to protect your eyes from permanent damage this summer.

## Contact lens care

Many contact lens wearers have experienced discomfort when the summer arrives. However, often because of vanity, many have refused to change into ugly reading glasses. If you are too cool to occasionally ditch the contacts this summer, a series of eye problems may have already occurred.

Li Yanyu, director of the Contact Lens Center at Beijing's Tongren Hospital, said summer is when contact lens wearers often suffer from problems if the proper eye care protection is not used. Some seemingly minor problems may even lead to permanent damage.

### Potential problems

The most common problems encountered by people that wear contacts are: excess tearing, itching, burning, sensitivity to light, dryness, and occasional blurred or distorted vision, Li said. These conditions may be worsened by improper cleaning of the lenses and could lead to an increase in the risk of developing an eye infection. If you are having problems, remove your lenses and disinfect them, Li said. If symptoms persist longer than two to three hours after removing and cleaning your contacts, call your optometrist.

Clinical studies suggest that the extended use of contact lenses, particularly overnight, seriously increases the risk of developing corneal ulcers. This condition is often referred to as "ulcerative keratitis." An ulcer can perforate or scar the cornea in a day or two, leading to permanent scarring of the cornea, or even blindness. Many eye doctors advise their patients not to use extended-wear contact lenses over 12 hours a day.

## Most commonly asked questions

### 1. Are contact lenses good for my eyes?

Contact lenses are a healthy vision option for many people. Only your eye care professional can determine if contact lenses are good for you. When prescribed contact lenses and by following all the prescribed steps for inserting, removing and caring for them, they have proven to be a safe and effective vision correction device for millions of people.

### 2. Why can't water be used for rinsing contact lenses?

Tap water contains chlorine, minerals and metal particles, which can damage both the lenses and the eye. Among other things, water contains organisms, which can lead to serious infections of the eye through microbial contamination.

### 3. Do contacts cause my eyes to dry?

There are several causes for eye dryness, particularly your environment – if you work in an overheated or air-conditioned room, or if you are exposed to smoke, dust or wind, your eyes will feel dry. Dry eyes are also a problem for most computer users.

When you use a computer for an extended period of time, for example, you tend to blink less. Your eyes are open for longer, therefore more tears evaporate and your contact lenses dry up faster. This situation can be made worse by central heating or dry air-conditioned offices.

### 4. If I get an infection, what should I do?

If you develop an eye infection, remove your contact lenses and discontinue use until you talk with your eye doctor. Wearing a contaminated pair of contact lenses will invite the infection to remain. After resuming contact lens use, closely follow your doctor's instructions to help prevent future eye infections.

## Ways to minimize eye infections

### 1. Remove contacts before going in the water

Contact lenses should be taken out before swimming, showering or bathing.

### 2. Wear eyeglasses when possible

Most experts agree that if someone wears contact lenses for too long – say for over 16 hours each day – their eyes could become starved of oxygen. In the long-term, this can result in the cornea losing its transparency.

### 3. Wash your hands first

Always wash your hands with warm water and soap before handling your contact lenses or before touching your eyes. Any residue from lotions, soaps, or chemicals may stick to the lens, causing pain, irritation, or blurred vision when they are in your eyes. Also, dry your hands with a clean towel.

### 4. Store contacts in a case

Contact lenses should always be stored in a clean and disinfected case. Experts suggest to store the solution in the refrigerator during the intense heat of the summer.

### 5. Replace them regularly

Contact lenses should be replaced when their scheduled wear time is up.

### 6. Have regular eye exams

Regular eye examinations should be scheduled to check prescriptions and detect early signs of infection or disease at least once a year.

### 7. Insert your contacts before applying makeup

Do not apply makeup to the inner rim of the eyelid. Replace eye makeup supplies every 3 to 6 months to reduce the risk of contamination. If you use eye medications, leave your lenses out for about 30 minutes after using the eye drops to avoid problems.

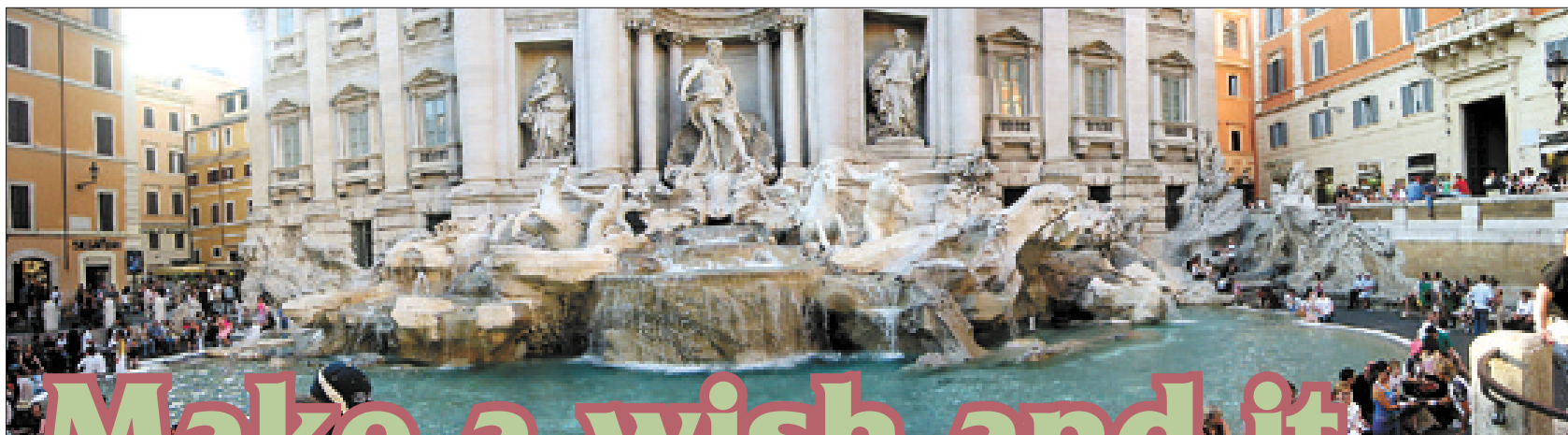
### 8. Clean your case

A lot of people take proper care of their lenses, but neglect the lens case. Contact lens cases can collect all kinds of bacteria, so you should wash it often with soap and boiled water. It is also recommended to replace your contact lens case every three months.



CFP Photo





# Make a wish and it will come true

Whether you wish that family members be healthy and happy, one day you meet "Mr Right" or make a lot of money, everyone has a wish. There are famous wishing sights all over the world. Follow Beijing Today on a tour of some of the world's more famous. Close your eyes and wish sincerely.

## Trevi Fountain (Rome)

Tradition has it that throwing a coin over one's left shoulder and into Trevi Fountain guarantees a swift return to arguably the world's most beautiful city, Rome. Unquestionably the world's most famous, the fountain's name means "three roads": fittingly, it is located at a junction of three roads marking the end of one of Rome's greatest aqueducts.

Alive with rushing waters and marble sea creatures under the command of Oceanus, this aquatic marvel is one of the city's main attractions. Visitors come to throw coins into the water with dreams of being able to return one day. The fountain grosses roughly € 120,000 per year, most of it donated to charity.

The fountain is famous not just because Anita Ekberg, a sexy idol of the 1960s, lifted up her gown to wade through its waters after dancing in the streets with a white kitten in her arms in *La Dolce Vita*, one of her most famous films.

It is set entirely against Palazzo Poli and was completed in 1762. It is a perfect example of the Rococo taste for dramatic theatrical effects. The water

comes from the Acqua Vergine aqueduct, and is so named because of a legend that it was a virgin who showed its source to thirsty Roman soldiers. The story is pictured in a relief on the right of the figure of Oceanus.

The central figure of the fountain is Neptune riding a chariot in the shape of a shell. The chariot is pulled by two sea horses and guided by two Tritons. One of the horses is calm, while the other one restive: they are the symbols of the sea's fluctuating moods. The Tritons, one young and the other old, represent the life of man. On the left hand side of Neptune is Abundantia, the god of wealth, and on his right is Salubrity, the god of health.

Because of tourist congestion, the best time to visit is early in the morning.

### Getting there:

The fountain is located at the Trevi Plaza (Piazza di Trevi). It is a five-minute taxi ride from the Central Termini Train Station. If you are walking, take Metro line A to the Barberini stop. Bus numbers 52, 53, 61 and 62 can also take you to the fountain.



## Wishing wall on Charles Bridge (Prague)

Charles Bridge is a stone bridge in Gothic style that connects the Old Town and Malá Strana in Prague, the Czech Republic. The wishing wall actually refers to the panel beneath a famous statue of Saint John of Nepomuk.

The bridge was called Stone Bridge during the first several centuries. It was commissioned by Czech King and Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV, and construction began in 1357. It is said that egg yolks were mixed into the mortar to strengthen the bridge.

Today, the bridge is more than just a tourist attraction. It is the main pedestrian route as well. During the day, souvenir stands and street musicians line the bridge; keep an eye out for some excellent jazz performers.

Most of the statues on the bridge are copies, as various floods and catastrophes over the centuries damaged the originals. There 75 statues on the bridge. The oldest – and perhaps most interesting – is of Saint John of Nepomuk, eighth from the right as head for Prague Castle.

When passing over Charles Bridge, it is a local custom to stop at the statue of St John Nepomuk and make a wish. There are two brass panels beneath the statue, one of which shows a mother and child protected by a soldier and the other depicts soldier and his dog. Touch the panel while wishing to make it come true.

The statue represents Saint John of Nepomuk, the court priest of King Wenceslas IV. Legend has it that he was

killed by request of the king because he invited an enemy bishop to Prague.

Walk a few steps towards the Old Town from the statue and you will come to a cross with five stars on the left parapet of the bridge. This is the exact point where a priest was thrown in the water in 1383. Legend has it that the stars appeared when he touched the water. You are supposed to touch the cross and stars with your left hand and make a wish.

### Getting there:

The Charles Bridge crosses the Vltava River central Prague, then connects Mala Strana with Stare Mesto. The nearest subway station is Staromestska (Line A).

(By Jackie Zhang)





... continued from Page 20

# Wishing Tree (Hong Kong)

The Wishing Tree, towering near the Tin Hou Temple in Lam Tsuen village, built in Qing Dynasty (1644-1912), is one of Hong Kong's best-known tourist attractions. It seems to be covered in deep crimson colors when seen from a distance and only when up close do the wishes scrawled on bright red paper become visible.

The tree used to be a camphor tree where a tablet for enshrining and worshipping Pak Kung was placed. Local legend said that there once was a worshiper, whose son was very slow learner. The worshiper went to the tree and made a wish, and his son completely changed and made remarkable academic improvement. Word spread, and people flocked to the tree to make wishes.

People from Hong Kong, the nearby Chinese mainland and tourists from around the world have long come to light incense and make wishes beneath the spreading limbs of the huge Chinese banyan tree – especially during the Spring Festival.

Taoists, Buddhists and people with a wide range of traditional beliefs have long scribbled their hopes and dreams on scraps, inserted the scraps in bright red envelopes and tied them to oranges or, in earlier times, to stones. They then hurled the offerings – called

*baodie* by locals – aloft, hoping they would snag a branch and that their wishes would ascend to heaven. Those who failed to land the *baodie* on the tree were considered too greedy.

Actually, the tree became so overloaded with *baodie* that one of its main limbs broke in early 2005. The local government had to declare the tree off-limits ever since, and has asked worshipers to tie their offerings to nearby wooden pavilions instead.

The Tin Hou Temple near the Wishing Tree, which was

built during Qianlong's reign (1736-1796), is also worth a visit.

**Where:** Lam Tsuen village, New Territories, Hong Kong

**Admission:** There's no admission fee for the tree, but local vendors ask HK\$5 (US\$0.65) for each *baodie* and HK\$40 (US\$5) for sacred candles and paper money, which are used to pay respects before tossing the *baodie*.

**Getting there:** You can take a bus or minibus, including lines 64K or 65K, or the 25K minibus at Taipo Market; train station in the city.



Photos by Pbase.com

# Wofosi Temple (Beijing)



CFP Photo

Wofosi Temple, also known as the Temple of the Sleeping or Reclining Buddha, is one of the most peaceful temples in the capital.

Nestled at the north end of Beijing Botanical Gardens, the temple houses a five-meter-long bronze statue of a Buddha, which was cast more than 1,000 years ago.

The Buddha lies in a sleeping position with one arm extended and the other propping up his head, giving final instructions to his twelve disciples who stand in a semi-circle before him.

Locals and visitors come to the temple to make wishes before the Buddha, who is believed to be generous with his powers. Nowadays, he has found a host of new urban worshipers.

The temple, whose name has a similar pronunciation to the word "offers," has gained increasing popularity among college graduates in the last several years. Graduates, desperate for an offer on the quest for jobs or scholarships for universities abroad, have found their shrine here.

Even if you don't believe Buddha can make your wish come

true, the temple is still worth visiting. Its magnificent buildings and pavilions hidden amongst cypress trees, its peaceful pond and its linden trees, which blossom in early summer, are a breathtaking sight.

The Botanical Gardens that house the temple are famous on their own as a haven for countless kinds of trees and flowers.

There are a number of other attractions near the temple, including the Fragrant Hills Park and Temple, where nature lovers can escape the hustle and bustle of the city.

**Where:** Wofosi Road, Xiangshan, Haidian District, Beijing

**Open:** 8:30am-4:30pm

**Admission:** 5 yuan (US\$0.66) for a ticket to Wofosi, 5 yuan for a ticket to enter the Botanical Gardens.

**Getting there:** Getting there by taxi will take close to an hour and may cost anywhere from 60 to 90 yuan. But there are many buses going there for much less. Numbers 331, 904, 737, 714, 833, 733, 318 and 360 all go to the temple.

**Tel:** 6259 1283

(By Jiang Xubo)





## Movie of the Week

## Through the eyes of the other side

By Huang Daohen

"No one wins a war. One side simply loses more than the other." That saying rings true in Clint Eastwood's *Letters from Iwo Jima* – a movie void of true villains beyond war itself.

Letters is pure art-house war drama, a massive monster of a movie that differs from Eastwood's entire catalog. The story is a Japanese telling of the events from Eastwood's American perspective *Flags of our Fathers*. While the latter had many scenes showing the glory of Americans and a

tone of victory all over, *Letters* offers something completely different.

War has no good guys or bad guys: it is pointless and diminishes all. The movie calls on viewers to turn their backs to such endeavors even if it means that multi-billion dollar death industries take a hit to their profits.

Perhaps *Letters* is not a perfect film, but it is one with impact. It is a testament to Eastwood's skill as a director, and the strongest moments were found in the smallest details: a letter read aloud, a salute, a tear and a song.

# Letters from Iwo Jima

**Starring:** Ken Watanabe, Kazunari Ninomiya, Tsuyoshi Ihara, Ryo Kase, Shido Nakamura

**Synopsis:** The battle of Iwo Jima, one of the bloodiest campaigns of World War II, is examined in Clint Eastwood's *Letters from Iwo Jima* from the viewpoint of the Japanese soldiers defending the island. A cache of letters found years later captures the feelings of several soldiers as they prepare for the American onslaught, longing for home and knowing death is on the horizon.

## Scene 1: Plane headed towards Iwo Jima

(General Tadamichi Kuribayashi, 53, staunch and tall and with an air of regality, sits on a bench in the supply plane.)

**Kuribayashi:** Today, I head for<sup>(1)</sup> my post where my men are stationed. To avoid detection by the enemy, I take a supply plane and the hour of my arrival remains unannounced. My heart is as strong as that of General Kusunoki who gave his life for Japan 650 years ago at the Minato River. (Kuribayashi looks out a window as the plan descends.)

**Kuribayashi:** I hope you and the children are well. I'm sorry I wasn't able to attend to the kitchen floor before I left. Make sure to have Taro take care of it as those drafts may give you a cold.

(As the plan approaches Iwo Jima, the island materializes below like a large, brown pork chop.)



## Scene 2: Back at the beach

(Captain Tanida quickly finds a stick and whips Saigo and Kashiwara with it.)

**Captain Tanida:** You no good peasants! Scum<sup>(2)</sup>! (Kuribayashi approaches Captain Tanida, who immediately stands at attention and stops the beating.)

**Kuribayashi:** Captain, what are you doing?

**Captain Tanida:** These soldiers were consorting with unpatriotic<sup>(3)</sup> words, sir.

(Kuribayashi looks over at the haggard-looking soldiers.)

**Kuribayashi:** I see.



And Captain, do you have such an excess of soldiers that you can put two of them out of commission<sup>(4)</sup>?

(Captain Tanida is hesitant.)

**Captain Tanida:** No sir.

**Kuribayashi:** Then stop beating them. Deny their lunch rations instead. A good captain uses his brain, not just his whip.

## Scene 3: Officer's quarters

(The cook enters and places empty plates on the table.)

**Kuribayashi:** Is that still really necessary?

**Cook:** Regulations, sir.

(Baron Nishi looks at Kuribayashi questioning.)

**Kuribayashi:** I have told our cook that all officers will have the same rations and food as our men.

(The Cook looks flustered.)

**Cook:** It is not right. Officers should not eat the same food.

**Kuribayashi:** Apparently, military regulations dictate that officers must be served at least three dishes.

**Cook:** That's right. At least three dishes. This is a travesty<sup>(5)</sup>, sir. I am very ashamed.

(The Cook finishes placing the empty dishes.)

## Vocabulary

**1. head for:** proceed or go in a certain direction, as in "I'm heading for town."

**2. scum:** slang for a person who is regarded as despicable or worthless.

**3. unpatriotic:** showing lack of love for your country.

**4. put out of commission:** make one not in service.

**5. travesty:** an exaggerated or grotesque imitation.

**6. show one's colors:** reveal oneself as one really is.

**7. desecrate:** to violate the sacredness of.

**8. marauder:** someone who attacks in search of boon.

**9. mogul:** another word for a Mongolian.

**10. perish:** to die or be destroyed through violence.

(By Huang Daohen)

## Scene 4: Planning room

(Kuribayashi turns on a microphone. Outside, bombs continue to be dropped.)

**Kuribayashi:** Men, the time has come at last to show your true colors<sup>(6)</sup>. To fight as honorable men of the Imperial Japanese Army.



**Kuribayashi:** Iwo Tou is of utmost importance to our Nippon. If the army takes this island, they will land their planes here, refuel and fly their bombs to the homeland. They will attack our villages and destroy them with fire bombs. For the sake of our homeland, we must delay them as long as possible. We cannot expect to return home.

(Saigo and Nozaki look at each other, the last sentence confirming what they fear.)

**Kuribayashi:** For 5,000 years, no foreign army has desecrated<sup>(7)</sup> the land of Japan. All of you must fight like Nipponjin. In the name of our fathers who held back the Russian marauders<sup>(8)</sup> at Port Arthur and Mukden, and our forefathers before that who fought against the invasions of the moguls<sup>(9)</sup> over 600 years ago, I ask each of you to defend this island to the limits of your strength. No man must die until he has killed at least ten Americans. We will hold Iwo Tou until the last of us has perished<sup>(10)</sup>. Long live the Emperor!

(The men raise their hands in the air.)



## Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch for it each week.

By Shida Zhu

### 1. Spokesman of the Foreign Ministry

Please remember that a spokesman is a person who speaks for another or others. Therefore, a person who speaks for the Foreign Ministry is the spokesman for the Foreign Ministry. It is never followed by "of" as in a possessive relation. Similarly, you will have to say an ambassador to a country, for instance, the Russian ambassador to China. However, when you speak of the embassy, you will have to say the embassy in a nation's capital, for instance, the Russian Embassy in Beijing.

### 2. All of they try to express national pride.

The Chinese are very much liable to commit this mistake. On the surface, there is nothing wrong. Please note that after "of," you will have to use the objective case of the word "they," that is, you will have to say "all of them."

### 3. If one person trains by themselves they aren't going to improve their skills.

The problem here involves the consistency of personal pronouns. You will either say "If one trains by himself he is not going to improve his skills" or "If they train by themselves they are not going to improve their skills."

### 4. The more people practice together, we can improve our technique.

A similar mistake to the last one and something that Chinese beginners to English are often liable to make. The whole idea is rendered in a purely Chinese way. First of all, you have to think of the relationship between "practice" and "improve"; it is a relationship of cause and effect. So, you will have to say, "If people practice more together, they can improve their technique." As you use "people," then, you will have to say "they," the third person plural. Consistency of personal pronouns again!

### 5. They are living in a world we don't know much about it.

Can you spot the mistake at first glance? You might think it is a perfectly fine sentence. Yes, it is, but only when it is "They are living in world we don't know much about." See the error? As the object of "We don't know much about" is exactly the linking word "which" that is left out in the sentence. So, when you say, "They are living in a world we don't know much about it" – it is as if you are adding feet to a snake in a drawing.



## Chinglish story

This column is drawn from amusing daily Chinglish mistakes. If you have any comical experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at [gantian@ynet.com](mailto:gantian@ynet.com).

## Woman President or Female President?

By Shida Zhu

The US will have its next presidential election in 2008. American politicians from the Democratic as well as the Republican Party who wish to run for the presidency are making announcements one after another before the primary early next year.

Mitt Romney, the former governor of Massachusetts, Senator John McCain of Arizona, Hillary Rodham Clinton, the senator of New York and wife of former president Bill Clinton are all in the running for the Democratic Party nomination. Clinton is "in to win," and could potentially be viewed as the favorite for the nomination and the presidency. Should she win the general election, she will rewrite American history.

In a recent discussion with an American friend, I talked about the presidential election in 2008 and said that I guessed that Hillary Rodham Clinton could be

America's first woman president. He smiled and asked why I did not say "female" president.

"What is the difference?" I enquired.

He said "woman" and "female" can both modify a noun, for instance, you may say woman doctor, woman English teacher, woman lawyer just as you may say female doctor, female English teacher and female lawyer. However, though "woman" and "female" both can be used as nouns, "female" can also be used as an adjective. You can say "Isabelle is more female than Catherine," meaning the former is more sexy or feminism-oriented than the latter. But, in the case of "woman," you will have to say "womanly" as an adjective. People prefer using "woman" as the modifier to "female" just as they preferred gender to sex in the 1970s feminist movement.

My friend explained to me

that there is a recent tendency for people to avoid using "female" as the word gives an impression of being biologically oriented. It also shows disrespect for the fairer sex as if the speaker is referring to an animal instead of a human as the word "female" can modify any animal.

So, he said that when I used the word "woman" to modify "the president" he was very much stuck on what I said. I myself was totally unaware of the difference between the two words.

There are some others who disagree. They maintain that the difference between "woman" and "female" lies only in the fact that when you say woman, it conjures up images of an adult, and when you use female, it covers all the age groups.

However, both are right. It all depends on personal choice and one should not go to such an extreme as to prefer one and negate the other.

## One step from Chinglish

Below are word-pairs so similar, they often confuse non-native English speakers. Some mistakes have even led to Chinglish jokes.

### Start out / start off

To start out means to take the first step or steps in carrying out an action; "We started out working at dawn." It also means to leave; "The family took off for Florida." However, to start off means to set out on a trip, as in "We plan to start off in the morning." And to start someone off means to cause someone to set out or to begin something,

as in "Their mother packed their lunches and started them off," or "The teacher started them off on their multiplication tables."

### Jewel / Jewellery

Jewel is a cut and polished precious stone; gem, or a fashioned ornament for personal adornment, especially of a precious metal set with gems. Usually it is a durable bearing used in fine timepieces and other deli-

cate instruments, made of natural or synthetic precious stone or other very hard material. However, jewellery means articles of gold, silver or precious stones, for personal adornment, or any ornaments for personal adornment, as necklaces or cuff links, including those of base metals, glass, plastic or the like.

### Destiny / Dynasty

Destiny is something that is

to happen or has happened to a particular person or thing; a lot or fortune. You can also use it to describe the predetermined, usually inevitable or irresistible, course of events, the power or agency that determines the course of events. Dynasty is a sequence of rulers from the same family, stock or group: the Ming dynasty, for example.

(By Gan Tian)

## Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to [gantian@ynet.com](mailto:gantian@ynet.com) together with your name and address.



Photo by Jean Loh

## An experience in the hotel

By Jean Loh

It's great to be back in Beijing after a few months away to witness the pre-Olympic frenzy building steam and the booming art industry in the capital. I am staying three nights at a rather classy serviced apartment wing of a four-star hotel in the city center.

What bothers me each time I return to my room is finding those little cards slipped under my door that offer massage services. It says on the photo side "Tian Tian (sweet sweet in Chinese) the Famous Massage," and "Welcome to Call Us! Price Special Discount," and on the back there is a list of "Service Items."

And the list goes on: The Russian Young Lady Massage, the Thaina Massage (in Chinese, it is translated to: modeling star massage), the Foot Bottomlady Massage (Dutch lady massage in Chinese), Wale sexual Function Obstacle (in Chinese it says literally the same thing except it should be male, not wale) and ending with "The Foot Bottom Cares the Massage," which in Chinese should have meant "healthcare foot massage."

So much for the fun... Well I can't help but wonder what the Dutch lady massage could be? When they wrote thaina, did they mean *tui na*, the Chinese traditional therapeutic massage or did they mean a Thai massage? Most have heard of a Swedish massage, but Dutch?





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## Friday, July 6

### Exhibition

#### New Photo – Ten Years



The inaugural exhibition of Three Shadows Photography Art Centre will reproduce New Photo, an independently published contemporary photography journal created by artists Liu Zheng and Rong Rong

from 1996 to 1998. The group exhibition is presented by 16 Chinese artists and photographers, including Liu Zheng, Jin Yongquan, Rong Rong, Wang Xu, Liu Anping, Zhuang Hui, Yan Lei, Gao Bo, Zhao Liang, Qiu Zhijie, Jiang Zhi, An Hong, Hong Lei, Guan Ce, San Mao and Zheng Guogu. Curated by Wu Hong and Zhang Li, the exhibition attempts to reproduce the situation of Chinese contemporary photography from over ten years ago.

Where: Three Shadows Photography Art Center, No 155 Caochangdi, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10am-6pm,

until September 16

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 2663

#### Zhao Shudong Solo Show



Where: Beijing Central Art Gallery, 02 Riverville Square, Tianzhu, Shunyi

When: Daily 9am-8pm, until July 13

Admission: Free

Tel: 6450 8483, 6450 8646

#### I Am Yuan Guolei



Where: Yan Club Arts Center, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 11am-6pm, until July 14

Admission: Free

Tel: 8457 3506, 137 1770 5016

## Saturday, July 7

### Exhibition

#### Osang Gwon Solo Exhibition

Where: Space 2 of Arario Beijing Space, inside Chaoyang Liquor Factory, Beihuqu Lu, Anwaipei Jie, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10am-6pm, until August 5

Admission: Free

Tel: 5202 3803, 5202 3800

#### Milano Made in Design

Where: Today Art Museum, No 32 Baiziwan Lu, Chaoyang

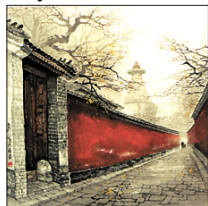
When: Daily 9am-5pm,

until July 17

Admission: Free

Tel: 5876 0011

#### Niu Zhiye Solo Exhibition



Where: New Art Center, No 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng

When: Daily 9am-5pm, until July 25

Admission: Free

Tel: 6526 8098

### Movie

#### Marie-Jo et Ses 2 Amours

Marie Jo is a middle-aged woman living an ordinary life in Marseilles, France, with her husband, Daniel, and her daughter, Julie. Outwardly their marriage appears loving, but Marie-Jo has been in love with another man, Marco, for more than a year.



Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartments, Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627



## Sunday, July 8

### Exhibition

#### Qiao Shiguang Solo Exhibition



Where: Melodic Art Gallery, No 14 Jiangnuomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10am-4:30pm, until July 25

Admission: Free

Tel: 6515 8123

#### Happiness Is A Warm Gun – Waza Kuya Solo Exhibition

Where: Beijing Tokyo Art Project, Dashanzi Art District, No 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10am-6:30pm, until July 29

Admission: Free

Tel: 8457 3245

### Movie

#### Anthony Zimmer

In Paris, the international police force and the Russian mafia are chasing Anthony Zimmer, an intelligent criminal

responsible for laundering dirty money in France. Zimmer had extensive plastic surgery, and his new face and voice are completely unknown. The only means to reach Zimmer is through his beloved mistress Chiara, who is under surveillance by the police and the mob. While traveling by train to nearby Nice, Francois Taillandier, who has the same body type as Zimmer, is targeted by Chiara as bait to lure those that are pursuing her.

Where: French Culture



Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartments, Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

## Stage in August

### Music

#### Yndi Halda Beijing Concert

Who: Yndi Halda (Enjoy the Eternal Bliss in English), a rock band from the UK

Where: Star Live Music Hall, 3F Candy (Tangguo) Xinguang Xianchang, 79 Heping Xijie, Dongcheng

When: 8:30pm, August 3

Admission: 60-80 yuan

#### Broadway Music Opera

#### Mamma Mia!



This hilarious musical comedy revolves around Sophie (Tina Madigan), who is trying to find out who her real father is so that he can give her away at her wedding. It turns out that the mother, Donna (Louise Pitre), had intimate relations with three people during the summer of love, and the father could be any one of the three. So Donna surreptitiously invites all three of them to the wedding. They all show up and to the chagrin of Louise, all want to give Donna away.

Who: Catherine Johnson, Benney Anderson, Bjorn Ulvaeus, Stig Anderson ...

Where: Poly Theater, No 14

Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, August 7-19

Admission: 180-2,008 yuan

#### Dream Back Spain

#### – Recital of Classical Guitar

Who: The Beijing Philharmonic Guitar Trio

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, August 16

Admission: 10-100 yuan

#### Asian Youth Orchestra China

#### Tour Beijing Concert

Who: Asian Youth Orchestra

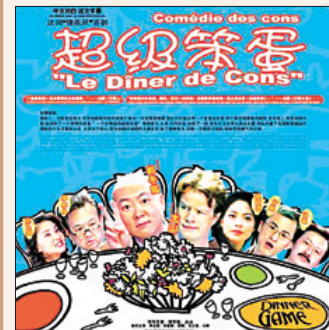
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, August 17-18

Admission: 20-100 yuan

### Drama

#### The Dinner Game



A Chinese adaptation of Francis Veber's play Le Diner de Cons. It follows the story of Pierre Brochant, a successful Parisian publisher, who attends a weekly "idiots' dinner." Each guest must bring along an "idiot" for the amusement of the other invitees. At the end of the dinner the evening's "champion idiot" is selected. Brochant manages to find an exceptional idiot: Francois Pignona, a taxation bureau employee with a passion for building replicas with matchsticks.

Who: Dashan, Guo Donglin ...

Where: Poly Theater, No 14

Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng

When: 7:30pm, August 29-31

Admission: 100-680 yuan

(By Qiu Jiaoning)